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WILBRAHAM, MASS.

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AN

Historical Address,

DELIVERED AT THE

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM,

JUNE 15, 1863.

BY

RUFUS P. STEBBINS, D.D.

With an Appendix.

BOSTON:
GEORGE C. RAND & AVERY,
PRINTERS, 3 CORNHILL.
1864.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

WILBRAHAM, JUNE 18, 1863.

TO REV. R. P. STEBBINS, D. D.

Dear Sir:—

The undersigned, appointed by the Committee of Arrangements of the Centennial Celebration of this Town, do respectfully solicit a copy of your Centennial Address, delivered before the inhabitants of the town, on the 15th instant, for publication.

A compliance with the above request will confer a great favor upon the citizens of the town.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN B. MORRIS,
JOHN W. LANGDON,
JOHN M. MERRICK,
Com. of Publication.

WOBURN, JUNE 26, 1863.

Gentlemen:—

Your letter of the 18th instant, requesting a copy of my Centennial Address, delivered before the inhabitants of the town of Wilbraham, on the 15th instant, for publication, is before me.

I am happy to comply with your request, believing that no town is so obscure, much less ours, that its history is not worthy of being written, as both instruction and inspiration to its citizens.

The favor with which the Address was received when delivered encourages me to hope that it may not be entirely destitute of interest when read.

The haste with which it was prepared will render it necessary for me to thoroughly revise the manuscript, and thus cause some delay in sending it to the press.

Accept, gentlemen, my thanks for the favors you have shown, and my best wishes for the prosperity not only of yourselves but of your fellow-citizens.

Respectfully,

Your former townsman and continued friend,

RUFUS P. STEBBINS.

JOHN B. MORRIS, JOHN W. LANGDON, and JOHN M. MERRICK, Esqrs.,
Committee of Publication.

DEDICATION.

TO THE

Descendants of the First Settlers of Wilbraham,

SCATTERED ABROAD, OR STILL RESIDENT,

AND TO

ITS PRESENT CITIZENS,

THIS ADDRESS, PREPARED, DELIVERED, AND PRINTED BY THEIR INVITATION, IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THE AUTHOR.

Prefatory.

THE following Address and Appendix have been prepared almost entirely from the Records of the Town, the Parishes, and the Churches. I have found hardly a sentence in print which has given me any assistance. If any historical sermons were preached by any of the ministers of the town, they were either not printed, or I have failed to find them.

This fact has made my labor very difficult and slow, as well as severe. I have thoroughly searched the records of the town of Springfield during the period antecedent to the incorporation of Wilbraham, and copied all that referred to our history. I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Folsom, City Clerk, for aid in finding that portion of the records which I needed. I obtained a copy of the Indian deed of a portion of the town from the office of the Registry of Deeds, and the clerks kindly volunteered to make scrutiny to discover, if possible, other deeds.

I spent several days in the Archives of the State Department, at the State House, in Boston, and was greatly assisted by the clerks, Messrs. Strong and Coolidge, and especially by Alanson Hawley, Esq., who kindly copied for me several pages from the "Revolutionary Rolls," and aided me in other ways most generously.

I have obtained invaluable assistance from Samuel Warner's Journal, and from Doctor Samuel Fisk Merrick's Journal of his two expeditions in the Revolutionary War, and from his MS. address at the conclusion of a century from the settlement of the town, delivered June, "election day," 1831.

I have not been able to find any Revolutionary correspondence save

two letters from John Langdon. I regret it, as private letters throw great light on history, — on the spirit of its actors. From Hon. Oliver Bliss Morris I have received many hints and helps. John M. Merrick, Esq., has sent me many papers of great value. Mrs. Stebbins very kindly entrusted to me some most valuable papers, collected by her late husband, Calvin Stebbins, Esq., when he was engaged, with others in the town, twenty years ago, in endeavoring to save the early traditions from perishing. I have visited the oldest people, and learned many incidents of interest. In a word, I have spared no labor to gather my facts and traditions. The result is before the reader.

I have written for the citizens of Wilbraham, that they might know what manner of persons their ancestors were, and how the town has grown to its present condition. I have endeavored, therefore, to let our fathers and mothers speak for themselves. I have copied and printed to the letter the records and old documents. The same word will be found spelled differently in the same sentence, and names are often spelled differently in the same document. I have kept all, or have attempted to, as the record has it.

I do not flatter myself that I have made no mistakes in this most difficult and laborious work of copying. I throw myself on the compassion as well as generosity of my late fellow-citizens. Only about half of the Address, owing to its great length, was delivered; and some words, thrown in to diminish the tedium of the hour, are not printed.

Messrs. Rand & Avery have done their part well. It will be remembered that Mr. Avery, of this firm, is son of the late Abraham Avery, Esq.; and I may add that Mrs. Rand, the wife of the other member of the firm, is daughter of the same former citizen of the town.

The limits which I had set to myself have been overrun, and I commenced omitting some of my materials. This accounts for the removal of Dr. Russell's second speech from its proper place, after mine, at the dinner, to page 289. I was cheered, however, in my work, by the unanimous voice of the town to save everything. Most hearty thanks for this kind confidence and indulgence. I place my year's work in your hands with distrust and hope.

R. P. S.

CAMBRIDGE, MARCH 3, 1864.

Historical Address.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

Mr. President,

Sons and Daughters of Wilbraham:—

WELCOME! This is a memorable day. We meet with gladsomeness to pour into the lap of our venerable mother whatever honors and successes we have won in the various pursuits of life; to render her thanks for the spirit she nourished in us, the industry, the economy and thrift she taught us; and to congratulate her that she has attained her hundredth year, is now a full century old, with no wrinkle on her brow, no dimness in her eye, no heaviness in her step, the still prolific mother of still enterprising and heroic sons, of still beautiful and enlightened daughters. There is no foot of her soil which does not glow with bright memories to some of us. Her very name is music to all our ears.

It was a happy thought of the children in the old homestead — accept our thanks for it, brothers and sisters — to call us wanderers back again, that we might brighten the chain of kinship and neighborhood; that we might clasp hands in the fervors of young friendship; that, above all, we might unitedly offer thanks to

Almighty God for his favoring care, and the heritage of our fathers. It will do us good to rehearse the story of our ancestors, to trace the growth of the town from the day when Nathaniel Hitchcock, coming out to the "mountains," commenced breaking up the two acres which he sowed with wheat, and built his log cabin, and for one long year dwelt here with his family alone, with no neighbor to share his friendly fire or frugal fare, nearer than Springfield Street, till villages, thrifty farm-houses, manufactories, schools, and rich, broad harvest-fields fill all our borders.

Nor is this all. The history of our town is the history of liberty. These little municipalities were the nurseries of those principles of freedom, and trained our ancestors to that capacity of administration, which have made us a great nation of freemen, extending from the rising to the setting sun, a name and a praise in the whole earth, wherever human rights are respected and liberty loved. In our town-meetings our fathers learned to legislate; in our town-offices they learned to administer; and when the hour came, they were ready for the birth, and sprang into existence a nation of freemen, prepared for all the responsibilities of legislation and administration. We shall learn the history of liberty as we trace the growth of the town; for "the doctrine of the sovereignty of the people came out of the townships and took possession of the State." We shall not only express our gratitude by these services, but we shall inflame our patriotism, kindle anew the fires of

liberty, and learn, from the heroic sacrifices of our fathers, how to preserve it, now the "gates of hell have rebelled against it."

The history of our town naturally divides itself into four periods.

I. The first period extends from its first settlement, 1731, and somewhat antecedently, to its incorporation as the fourth precinct of Springfield, January 6, 1741. During this period, all public business, both municipal and ecclesiastical, was transacted in Springfield, and the first settlers were struggling with the stubborn soil and beasts and birds for the necessaries of life and the security of their persons. It was a period of hard labor, poor returns, patient endurance.

II. The second period extends from the incorporation of the "outward commons," or "the mountains of Springfield," into the fourth parish or precinct for the support of a minister, January 6, 1741, to the incorporation of the town, by the name of Wilbraham, June 15, 1763. This period is occupied chiefly by ecclesiastical affairs,—the organization of a religious society, the gathering of a church, the settlement of a minister, the building of a meeting-house, and the adjustment of those troubles which parishes and churches then, as now, found it hard to settle.

III. The third period extends from the incorporation of the town, June 15, 1763, to the division into two

parishes, the North and the South, June 20, 1782. The town ceases from this time to have charge of ecclesiastical affairs, and its history is limited to secular business, — the laying out of roads, the opening of schools, the building of school-houses, and especially to the raising of troops and commissary stores for the Revolutionary War, and to the struggle with the difficulties arising out of a depreciated paper currency.

IV. The fourth period extends from the division of the town into two parishes, June 20, 1782, to the present day, June 15, 1863. It includes the history of the gradual growth of the town,—its improvements in agriculture and means of education, the formation of new religious societies, and of troubles in the old ones, the erection of shops, mills, manufactories, and of the foundation and success of this noble institution, to whose spacious halls we have been this day welcomed by the generous hospitality of its principal, my friend and classmate, the Rev. Dr. Raymond.

Such is the outline of my story. — The settlement of the town, the establishment of religious institutions, the organization of the town and the administration of its affairs, under the act of incorporation, till the formation of two parishes at the close of the Revolutionary War, and its subsequent growth and improvement.

I shall neither challenge nor weary your patience by an attempt to relate it all; but, like the old chroniclers at the Grecian games, I shall go on with my tale of

struggle and growth, of endurance and success, "and leave it half told when hearers give signs of weariness or the herald proclaims that the feast and the games are ready."

I. What is now the town of Wilbraham was a part of the territory of Springfield, whose settlement was commenced by William Pynchon and his associates, in 1636, ninety-five years before the settlement of this town. The territory of the town of Springfield was about twenty-five miles square, extending from Connecticut River east to the present line of Monson, west to Russell or thereabouts, and from Warehouse Point, or about the south line of Enfield, to the mountains or thereabouts on the north. I do not undertake to trace accurately the boundary line, as it is not necessary to my purpose. On the east side of this territory, extending from Connecticut line to the north line of the town of Springfield, as then bounded, there was a strip four miles wide, called the "Mountains," or "outward commons of Springfield." There was also a strip on the west side of about two-thirds the same length, and whose breadth is determined by specified bounds called "outward commons of Springfield, on the west side of the Great River."

These "outward commons" on each side of the river, though within the original purchase of Pynchon, had not been specially appropriated to any of the inhabitants of Springfield, and there was reason to fear that

Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of Massachusetts, would take away the charter of the colony, as he threatened to do, thus causing all the unappropriated lands to revert to the crown, — become the property of the king. The inhabitants of Springfield, therefore, to avoid such an undesirable transfer of ownership of their "common lands," voted, in town-meeting, February 3, 1685, that after reserving three hundred acres to the ministry, and one hundred and fifty acres for schools, on the "east side of the river," and a due proportion to the ministry and schools on the "west side of the Great River," the remainder be divided among the one hundred and twenty-three heads of families or legal citizens; among these is included, by special vote, "our reverend teacher, Mr. Pelatiah Glover." A "ministry-lot" and a "school-lot" are also to be given from the land. There are, therefore, one hundred and twenty-five proprietors, among whom the land is to be divided. The division is to be made according to estates and polls, — each poll to be valued at £12. It was also voted, that all male children, under age, should be counted as polls; and further, that while these lands are unfenced, any person can use them for grass, herbage, and timber, and that they shall be free from taxes till improved.

As the lands appropriated would necessarily vary very much in value, and as it was not only just, but desirable, that each proprietor should have at least a chance to secure a good lot or a portion of one, these "outward commons" on the east side of the river

were divided into three portions, and those on the west side into two portions, making five portions in all. These portions were numbered from one to five, beginning with the northernmost portion on the east side; and each of the one hundred and twenty-five proprietors was to have one share in each portion, making five shares in all. Omitting all further reference to the "commons," which were not included in the present boundaries of the town, only stating that the "commons" on the east side of the river were about twelve miles long, and therefore that each of the divisions was four miles north and south, and that nearly the whole of the first division and part of the second were north of Chicopee River, the so-called "outward commons," constituting the principal part of the present town of Wilbraham, included the greater part of the second and the whole of the third division. The second division extended from about a mile north of Chicopee River south four miles to the south line of the farm of Deacon Moses Burt, and west from Monson line four miles, to the line of the "inner commons" near the Stony Hill road, which runs north and south. The third division was bounded north by the second division, east by Monson line, and extended south to near the top of the old Potash Hill, to what was then supposed to be the line of Connecticut, and west to the line of the "inner commons," which was near the road running south from Stony Hill, the most of the way to Somers. The "inner commons" was that territory

which extended from the "outward commons" to the settled portions of Springfield, sometimes called the "plains."

The general boundaries of the "commons" are defined, and the proportions of the several proprietors in the respective "divisions" are graduated; how can their several portions of the common property be located? Each of these divisions was to be appropriated to one hundred and twenty-three persons, and a lot for the ministry, and one for the schools. For my purpose, we may say there were one hundred and twenty-five proprietors, or persons, between whom each division is to be divided. There will be therefore one hundred and twenty-five lots in each "division." These lots are numbered, beginning at the north side of each division; the north lot being one, the next two, and so on up to one hundred and twenty-five. These same numbers are drawn from a box like a lottery; from another box, at the same time we may suppose, is drawn a proprietor's name. The proprietor who drew No. 1 would have the first "lot" in the "division," he who drew No. 2 would have the second lot, and so on till the whole number, one hundred and twenty-five, was drawn. Then lots would be drawn for the second division, and so on till all the divisions were drawn. After the number of the proprietor's lot was settled, the next step was to determine its width; its length was four miles of necessity, because the lots extended across the "commons," from east to west. The width was determined by adding to-

gether the value of *all* the polls and estates, and then, as the whole amount would represent all the land in one division, or the whole extent north and south of four miles, so each man's estate and polls would represent his individual portion of the four miles, or the width of his lot; a problem in simple proportion.

John Holyoke was chosen to make out a list of the estates and polls, and very probably to superintend the allotment. The lots varied in width, from one hundred and thirty-three rods, fifteen feet, and nine inches, which was the width of Col. Pynchon's, lying north of Sylvanus Stebbins's farm, being No. 81 in the "third division," and north of Chicopee River, being lot No. 2 in the "second division," down to only eight feet and nine inches in width, the lot of William Brooks, not far from the late Noah Merrick's, being No. 13 in the "third division," and No. 111 in the "second division."

If this allotment saved the "commons" from reversion to the king, it hardly conferred any benefit on the proprietors. A farm eight feet, or even ten rods wide,—and most of the lots were less than ten rods in width,—and four miles long, was worthless for all practical purposes. A man could not turn his cart round without trespassing on his neighbor, much less could he build a house. Indeed, there is no reason to suppose that this allotment was intended to give permanent possession; it was doubtless a mere resort to save the land from confiscation or reversion to the crown. The subsequent history of ownership seems to confirm this

view. The wealth of Col. Pynchon is indicated by the great width of his lot, one hundred and thirty-three rods. The lot of Mr. Holyoke, which is the next in width to Col. Pynchon's, is only twenty-six rods wide.

No satisfactory survey was made of these lots, though several were attempted, till 1729, when Mr. Roger Newbury ran the line acceptably. One of his boundary stones is now standing, or rather lying nearly buried, on the north side of Sylvanus Stebbins's farm, about ten rods west of the road which passes his house; and another was said to be standing on the north side of the late Dr. Samuel F. Merrick's house-lot, about thirty years ago.

It was many years before these allotments were definitely marked, and the heirs of many of them were found with great difficulty, or were all dead, so that another allotment was attempted in 1740, fifty-five years after the first, to about four hundred persons; and again in 1754, on a different principle, to five hundred and forty-four persons. But serious difficulties were in the way of the new allotments, and they were but partially acceptable. It is said that the Pynchon heirs, having obtained excellent portions, some of the best land, under the first allotment, would not agree to any new arrangement.

In Newbury's survey of the original lots, for some unknown reason, only sixteen feet were allowed to a rod; so that there were sixty-two rods in width of "overplus land," as it was called, on the south side of

the third division, where now are John W. Langdon's and Mr. Endicott's farms; and by some further mistake, supposed to be the loss of a tally, there were eighty-two rods in width of "overplus land," on the south side of the "second division," including with others the farm of Deacon John Adams.[1]

Such was the division made of the land; and the vote of the town of Springfield, by which this distribution of the territory of this town was made among the early proprietors, constitutes the original legal title which the present occupants have to the soil. These divisions and lots are always mentioned in the early deeds conveying land in the town, and by examining these deeds, the situation of many of the original lots can be found, and the names of the original proprietors determined. No record was made however of Newbury's survey till 1774 at least, for I find that a committee was chosen at a town meeting, held March 15th, of that year, "to desire Edward Pynchon, Esq., to record a tested coppy of Roger Newberry's survey of Laying out the 'outward commons,' So Called, on the east side of Connecticut River;" and as late as May 20, 1776, a committee is chosen by the town to "make application to the general court for an Establishment" of this survey.

The appearance of the country was not attractive. Nearly the whole territory, called by the Indians, Minnechaug, "Berry land," had been so devastated by fires, that in many places there were no forest trees, — and

[1] Appendix A.

in other portions hardly any shrubbery grew. The low, swampy grounds and swales afforded a coarse grass which was mowed and cured for the support of cattle during the winter season, and the burnt hills furnished abundant pasturage during the summer. The tradition is handed down to us, that the country was so bare in many places that a deer could be seen from mountain to mountain. The late Samuel Chapin was accustomed to say, that in his father's day all the land south of Scantic from the mountain to the Potash Hill and west of the present road nearly half a mile was so destitute of trees and brush, that a deer could be seen distinctly at a great distance.

Game was very abundant, and continued to be till long after the settlement of the town. Deer filled the pastures and the woods; wild turkeys ran in flocks over the fields and hills; the ponds were covered with ducks; squirrels on the trees filled the air with their barking, and were seen leaping in all directions over the rocks; beavers built their dams in Pole Bridge Brook, and muskrats swarmed upon the banks of Scantic and other streams, sharing with minks the bounties of both land and water. The brooks abounded with that prince of fishes, the trout; pickerel darted like arrows in the clear waters of the ponds, and salmon, weighing from seven to twelve pounds, came up the Chicopee River as far as Twelve Mile Brook, where they were caught in great abundance with seines. Beasts of prey were not abundant, if we except the fox,

which cunningly sought his rent of the intruders by securing the choicest of the poultry for his own eating. Sometimes bears made their appearance and feasted on the unripe corn, much to the annoyance of the planter and the terror of his children. It was not uncommon for devout aunts to still the restlessness of the children, who were left in their care, both on Sundays and on other days, when their pranks were annoying, by telling them that the bears would hear them and come and carry them away into the woods and devour them. Bounties were given at an early day, for the destruction of wild-cats, by the town of Springfield.

No Indians inhabited the town after it was settled; nor probably for many years previous. Seldom, if ever afterwards, was it visited by them in any numbers. Springfield on the west, and Quabog, as Brookfield was called, on the east, were more attractive, and furnished much better planting-ground. These mountains were their hunting-grounds, and were undoubtedly abandoned soon after King Philip's War, 1675. One Indian squaw alone remained after the settlement commenced. Her wigwam was on a little brook, southeasterly of Mr. Pliny Merrick's house, and gave the name to "Wigwam Hill," on which his house stands, and where the first meeting-house and parsonage were erected. No one knows her origin or end. Alone, the last of that mysterious race who had chased the deer over these fields, trapped the beaver in these streams, speared the salmon in these rivers, enjoyed the freedom of these hills.

kindled their evening fires by these springs, and, as they smoked their pipe, beheld the western sky lighting up when the sun went down, as if with the smile of the Great Spirit and of the heroes who had fallen in battle, and buried their kindred under these trees, she lived solitary, the curiosity of the early settlers, harmless, quiet, meditative, seldom entering any dwelling, and providing for her own wants. At last even she disappeared. Of the manner of her death, or of her burial-place, no man knoweth. She passed away, as a shadow of the vanished race, and joined the company and pastime of her fathers, "the hunter and the deer a shade," in the land of the sunset, beyond the western hills which she had so often seen empurpled at eventide.

There was nothing to hinder the enterprising from entering in and taking possession of the land; and in the summer of 1730, Nathaniel Hitchcock came out from Springfield Street, and cleared and broke up two acres of ground, and erected a log hut where the house of Mr. James Merrick, the great grandson of the first minister, now stands. After sowing his two acres with wheat, Hitchcock returned to Springfield Street to spend the winter and make the few preparations which were necessary to remove his young wife, whom he had married that year, to his hut by the "Mountains," in the spring. In May, 1731, one hundred and thirty-two years ago, he came out with his wife to his narrow field and low hut, and resided here a full year, with no neighbor nearer than Springfield Street. Nine miles away,

he planted his corn, he gathered his wheat, he mowed his grass, dried and stacked his hay, husked and stored his corn under the roof of his cabin; and when the long, dark, stormy winter evenings came, he was solaced with the music of his wife's song, and the voice of his child, and the crackling and roaring of the fire in his great open fireplace, in the corners of which, in later days, the children were delighted to sit and gaze up through the huge chimney at the sparkling stars.

At last the spring opened, and not only the robins and the bluebirds returned, but what was better for him and for Hannah, his wife, Noah Alvord came and settled near him, on the place where Mr. Lorenzo Kibbe now resides. Sweet counsel did these two neighbors take respecting the field to be cleared, to be planted, to be sown; and often did Hitchcock, that summer, take his axe and go over to his Neighbor Alvord's to work by his side, softening the hardness of the labor by the pleasure of society. And you might have seen Alvord, of an early morning, with his hoe in hand, going over to make Hitchcock's long day's work shorter by his helpfulness. Nor was there any rivalry between the two wives, except to most lovingly and abundantly render all needed service to each other.

The report of the land was good; and the next year, 1733, came Daniel Warner, and settled where the Widow Brainard Brewer now resides, near both Hitchcock and Alvord. In 1734, the next year, Mr. Nathaniel Warriner, afterwards a prominent citizen, the donor

of the ministry and school-fund, located himself where Mrs. Gale and Mrs. Mears now reside. Of these four earliest settlers no descendant remains in town. Nathaniel Warriner had no children. Of Noah Alvord's four children, none had children. And the descendants of Hitchcock and Warner all left the town years ago.

It is possible that some other settlers may have come in before 1734. Moses Burt, grandfather of our oldest vice-president, Deacon Moses Burt, now hale in his ninety-first year, and thrice welcome to our festivities, an industrious weaver and reed-maker, settled on the Burt Farm, perhaps as early as 1733, for in that year the deed of his farm, given by Mary Day, is dated. Then Samuel Warner settled on Stony Hill; Samuel Stebbins on the mountain not far from Mr. Richards's; David Merrick built his house where Mr. John M. Merrick resides; John Jones settled on Mr. Buell's place; Abel Bliss, great grandfather of Mr. John Wesley Bliss, on the Bliss Farm; Daniel Lamb, on the Bay Road, west of Jenksville; Thomas Merrick, father of the young man bitten by a rattlesnake, immortalized in song, on Mr. Cross's Farm; David Warriner on the Academy lot; Isaac Brewer on Edwin Brewer's place; David Chapin and Moses Bartlett over and on the mountain; and Nathaniel Bliss near Samuel Stebbins. But the time would fail me to name all those, few though they were, who settled in the town before 1741, or during the first ten years, — the first period of our history.

In May, 1740, there are twenty-six names attached

to the petition for incorporation as a separate precinct. All these are from what is now called the North Parish. I find no evidence that there were any settlers within the limits of the present South Parish before 1741. Of these petitioners, two were not landholders, and soon removed, so that there were but twenty-four, — some say but twenty-two, — who paid taxes.

Few and scattered as the settlers were, they were not indifferent to the education of their children. As early as 1737 I find that the town of Springfield appropriated three pounds for the support of a school in the "outward commons on the east side." There were at this time, as nearly as I can ascertain, but eleven families. The same amount was appropriated the following year. In 1739, the sum was increased to four pounds; and in 1740, two pounds more were added, making six pounds for the education of these children, our grandfathers. The Testament was the text-book in schools, as well as the oracle in the church. Dilworth's spelling-book was their guide in spelling. Of geography nothing was taught; of arithmetic but little. Writing received more attention. The means of education were very scant at the best, and the instruction, given in the houses of the different families in turn, was probably very imperfect.

During this first period, to Jan. 1, 1741, there were thirty-eight children born, and but three persons died; not one of them was buried in the town. Widow Elizabeth Cockril, who had come from Boston to reside with

a relative, and who died April 26, 1741, was the "first person y^t^ was Bured in y^e^ town."

Comfort Warner, daughter of Daniel Warner and Jerusha Warner, his wife, was the first child born in the "outward commons on the east side of the Great River," March 15, 1734. The first death was that of "David Jones, son of David Jones, and Hannah Jones, his wife, August 19th, 1736."

These pioneers were hardy and industrious, and prosperity, such as they sought, as bounteous as they expected, was their reward; and eminently was fulfilled to every householder the promise of the Psalmist, "Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive-plants round about thy table." [1]

Such was the condition of the settlement in the "outward commons" at the close of ten years. Twenty-four families, or twenty-six, scattered over an area of four miles long and two miles broad, possessing only the barest comforts of life, include all the population. Most of their houses, it is true, were framed, the sawmill at Sixteen Acres supplying lumber, but they were poorly finished, scantily glazed, and meagrely furnished, and rarely even partially plastered. Their fields were still narrow, and but insecurely fenced. The bears and squirrels shared their scant harvest. The penurious soil did not make large returns, at best, for their labor. They were far from store and

[1] Appendix B.

mill. They had no roads for wheel-carriages, nor any conveyances of this kind, even if there had been roads. From the sides of the mountain, the friendly smokes of the settlers on the banks of the "Great River" could be seen rising above the trees. Between, there spread out an unbroken forest, swamp and meadow, save where a pond interrupted the continuity, whose placid waters mirrored the heavens. They were religious men and women; and the way was long and difficult to the first parish meeting-house. The sun smote them in summer, snows blocked their path in winter. When the Sunday morning came, Daniel Lamb could comfortably make his way along the Bay Road to the sanctuary. But Hitchcock and Bliss and Warriner and Merrick, and the rest, some on horseback, their wives on their pillions behind, and the baby on the pommel before, and some on foot, started in the early morning for the meeting-house, nine miles away, by way of Pole Bridge Brook, over Stony Hill, striking the Usquaick, or Mill River, at Sixteen Acres, and entering the Bay Road near Goose Pond. The young men and maidens, for reasons easily divined, preferred to walk even when there was no necessity; and it is reported, not slanderously it is to be presumed, that the way seemed all too short to Zion, and all the more lovely because so few went up to her solemn feasts. But the elders wearied of the way; the briers were sharp, the swamps were miry, the fords were insecure, the storms were drenching. Their souls longed for the

courts of the Lord, their hearts and their flesh cried out for the living God. They had enjoyed the blessing of the preached word in their own homes on a few occasions, and it was pleasant to their souls. They cherished tenderly, yet timidly, their desire to establish the "means of grace" in their settlement. They talked over the subject in their families, and with each other in the field and by the way. They became courageous by speech, and gained assurance by intercourse. At last, Hitchcock and Warriner and Bliss and Burt and Brewer and Stebbins, and the rest, met, we may suppose, at Merrick's house, in the midst of winter, and talked the matter over, before the great fireplace. They are few; they are poor; they are not famous. But they loved the sanctuary and the ordinances of religion. They have faith in endeavor. They resolve to try the heart of the brethren in the first parish, Springfield Street, and of Longmeadow, incorporated as a precinct, in 1713, and see if they would not consent to their being set off as a separate precinct, and aid their petition to the provincial government to that end, so that there may no longer be a "dearth of the word of the Lord" on the "Mountains."

Their petition is favorably received by Longmeadow, and it is voted, March 10, 1740, that "the outward commons of Springfield, be set off for the benefit of the gospel ministry." The first precinct passed a similar vote March 21.

There is now no lion in the way, and these modest

"outward commoners" take courage, draw up a paper empowering their agents, and certifying to their authority and responsibility, and send up their petition, signed in their behalf by Thomas Merrick, 2d, and Abel Bliss, to the provincial governor and council, which should be given in full in their own words:—

"To his Excellency Jonathan Belcher Esq Captain General and Governour in Chief in and over His Majestys Province of the Massachusetts Bay To the honoble His Majestys Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled at Boston May A D 1740.

"The Petition of Abel Bliss and Thomas Mirick Second for themselves and the rest of the Inhabitants settled at the mountains So called at the east side of the great river in Springfield on the land called the Outward Commons, being the second and third divisions of said Commons ———

"Humbly Sheweth that your Pet^{rs} live nine miles from the said Town of Springfield, which distance makes it very inconvenient for them to attend the Publick Worship of God especially, in the winter season, that they cant attend the Service and Duties of Gods House as they ought, by reason of the badness of the weather, which makes the roads very bad and renders them almost impossible to travel in,—

"That the land lying in the Second and Third Divisions of the S^{d} outward commons being in length north and South eight miles and east and west four miles are

very convenient and Commodious for a Precinct which your pet[rs] are very desirous of, for the building of a meeting house for the Public worship of God in the said Precinct that so they may attend the Dutys and Service of God's House seasonably and constantly as they ought to do.

"And your Pet[rs] would suggest to your Excellency and Honours That the first Parish and Longmeadow Parish in S[d] Springfield whereto they belong voted their consent that your Pet[rs] should be set off a separate Precinct from the said Parishes.

"And therefore your Pet[rs] humbly pray that your Excellency and Honours would be pleased to set them off and also to set off all those Lands which lye in the Second and Third Division of the said outward Commons being in length north and south eight miles, and east and west four miles a Separate Precinct, and grant unto them all such powers and libertys priviledges and Immunitys as other Precincts have and enjoy with and under such restrictions and limitations as your Excellency and Honours shall deem meet; and that all the lands lying within the limits aforesaid may be taxed further to enable your Pet[rs] to settle a minister &c for such term of time, and at such rate as your Excellency and Honours shall think proper.

"And your Pet[rs] (as in Duty bound) shall ever pray

"THOMAS MIRICK, 2[d]

"ABEL BLISS."

Thus pathetically and hopefully did they send up their prayer to those in authority.

Their petition was received by the House of Representatives, June 26, 1740, and it was "Ordered that the petitioners serve the non-resident proprietors of land with a copy of this Petition, by posting the same at the town-house in Springfield, and by inserting it in one of the Public Newspapers, that they may show cause (if any they have) on the first Tuesday of the next session of this Court, why the Prayer thereof should not be granted." It was sent up to the council for concurrence the same day; and on the next day, June 27, the petition was read and the "Order" concurred in, and consented to, by the governor.

The petition was taken up by the House at the next session, January 2, 1741, "and it appearing that the non-resident Proprietors have been sufficiently notified, but no answer given in, Ordered that the Prayers of the Petition be so far granted as that the Petitioners Together with all the lands petitioned for lying southward of the River called Chicuepe River runing Easterly and Westerly through the said Second Division of said Commons be erected into a Separate and distinct Precinct and that they be vested with all the Powers liberties Privilidges and immunities as other Precincts hold and Enjoy and that all the lands Petitioned lying Southward of the River as aforesaid be subjected to a tax of two pence old tenor Bills p^{r} acre p^{r} annum for the space of Four years Next Coming the money arising thereby to

be applyed for the building of a Meeting house Settlement and support of the Ministry among them." This "Order" was sent up to the council for concurrence on the same day. January 5, 1741, the council concurred. On the next day, January 6, it was consented to by Jonathan Belcher, Governor, and the "Outward Commons on the East Side of the Great River," or "Mountanes of Springfield," became the "fourth precinct of Springfield."

There was joy in those households when the success of their petition was known, and more than one man called upon his neighbor to bless the Lord for his kindness to them. The axe was plied more vigorously, and the winter fires burned more cheerily because the ark of the Lord was to be set up among them.[1]

II. We now enter upon the second period of our history. The precinct is incorporated, and no time is lost in entering upon the new and difficult work before the incorporators. A petition was sent, January 25, 1741, nineteen days only after the act of incorporation was passed, for a warrant to call a precinct meeting. And the first warrant, for that purpose, was issued February 13, 1741, one month and seven days after the act of incorporation was "consented to," by "Wm. Pynchon, Esq., one of his Majastes Justeses of the Peace for Hampshire County," to Mr. Nathaniel Warriner, "upon application made by Nathaniel Bliss, 2d, Sam'l Stebbins,

[1] Appendix C.

Junr., Samuel Warner, 2d, Noah Alvard and Nathaniel Warriner," requiring him "to Notifie the Frecholders and other inhabitants of said Precinct Quallified to voat in town affairs, that they meet and assemble togeather att the Dwelling House of David Mirick in said Precinct on the second Thursday [the 12th day] of March next att one a clock afternoon."

The meeting was held at the time and place specified, and was organized by the choice of "William Pynchon, Esq., Moderator. David Mirick was chosen Clerk and sworn. Thomas Mirick, 2d, Isaac Brewer, Nathaniel Warriner, Committee of the Precinct for the year ensuing. Isaac Brewer, Treasurer, sworn; David Mirick, Thomas Mirick, 2d, Samuel Stebbins, chosen Assessors, sworn. Nathaniel Warriner, chosen Collector, sworn." Thus the precinct was organized, and it is voted, that "the annual meeting for the choice of precinct officers shall be y^{e} second Wednesday of March annually."

Four very difficult and important undertakings are to test the skill, ability and patience of the members of the precinct: — The choice and settlement of a minister, the location and erection of a meeting-house. Six different meetings are held before the first day of June, in about two months, to agree upon a minister and arrange his settlement and salary; for it was customary at that time to pay a considerable sum to a minister, at the commencement of his ministry, called a "settlement," in addition to his annual salary. At the first meeting, held at the dwelling-house of Isaac Brewer, March 25, 1741,

called, among other things, to see "wheather they will give the worthy Mr. Noah Mirick a call in order to settle in the work of the ministry in case they have the advice of the neighboring ministers," they chose Joseph Wright and Daniel Warner a committee "to make application to three neighboring ministers in behalf of said precinct for advice who to settle in the work of the ministry," and pending the procurement of this advice they voted "to hier Mr. Noah Mirick to Preach the word of God to them three Sabbaths beginning the first Sabbath in April next ensuing." Mr. Merrick had been preaching for them previously as appears from subsequent votes, and had preached in all twenty Sundays before his ordination. They also direct their committee to "further pursue and execute a Deed that is Given of the Land called the Overplus Land given to the first settled Orthodox minister of this Precinct." This overplus land, it will be remembered, consisted of two lots four miles long from east to west, the one on the south side of the second Division being eighty-two rods wide, and the only one probably which was deeded to the first minister, the one on the south side of the third Division being sixty rods wide. This land was owned by the heirs of the one hundred and twenty-five original proprietors. Phineas Chapin and Samuel Warner, the committee, have no small labor committed to them to hunt up these heirs and obtain their signatures to the deed of conveyance. On the 17th of April, without waiting for the "advice of three neighboring ministers,"

they "unanimously voated a Call or Desier that the Worthy Mr. Noah Mirick should settle with" them "in the work of the Ministry; chose Aaron Stebbins to assist Warner and Chapin in getting More Signers to a Deed of the overplus Land and get the same acknolidged;" and to "hier Mr. Mirick Four Sabbaths more, if he Give encouragement to settle." The meeting was adjourned to the "Twenty-fourth of this instant, April;" and at the adjourned meeting it would seem that they had received such "encouragement" from "worthy Mr. Mirick that he would settle," as to justify them in choosing "five men as a Committee to State, Regulate and Draw up a scheem Relating to the Encouragement of Mr. Mirick's settling with them in the work of the ministry." The importance of securing a deed of the "Overplus Land" is indicated by their voting that their committee on that subject "shall hier a Justice Peace to take acknowledgments of the same att the Charge of the Precinct." They then adjourn to the "Eleventh Day of May next." At this May meeting the committee chosen to "Regulate a salary to ofer to Mr. Mirick" make their report. They state that they have taken the matter into serious consideration, and that they find "the money or Coin in this Province is so variable and uncertain as to its value in Proportion with other commodaties that they can't think it a medium whereby the salary can be settled or assertained with any safety or security either to the Minister or People." "Wherefore," they continue, "we have considered the value or Currant Market Price of

the several Commodaties hearafter mentioned, viz: Indian Corn att 6s. per booshel; Wheat, 11s. per booshel; Rie, 8s. 6d. per booshel; Barley, 8s. per booshel; Oats, 4s. per booshel; Flax, from y^e^ swingle, 1s. 6d. per pound; Beaf, 5d. per pound; Pork, 8d. per pound." They further recommend "that Mr. Mirick be Elowed either money for his salary Bills or other Commodaties or Considerations Equal to One Hundred Pound a year for the first four years of his being settled and after the fourth year to Rise five Pounds a year till his sallary amount to one Hundred and forty Pound per annum in the Currancy above said so long as he continue to be their minister." They further recommend that a committee shall annually agree with the minister upon price, "before the meeting for Granting Precinct Charges," so that the sum shall be Equal in value as above specified, and "that the whole of the salary be paid in by the Last Day of March annually." They also suggest "that for his further encouragement he have the improvement of that part of the Ministry Land that will fall to the Ministry of this Precinct." They also estimate, "by a moderate computation," that the "Overplus Land," of which they are obtaining a deed for the minister, is "worth three Hundred Pounds," which is considered, as it was, a generous settlement. They conclude their report in the following words: "and for the further encouragement of Mr. Mirick's settling with us, it is Proposed that we Cut and Boat of a suficient Quantity of Rainging Timber for a Dweling House for him and con-

vey the same to the Place where he shall Determine to Erect said Building."

Such is the offer which these twenty-two or twenty-four landholders make to the "worthy Mr. Mirick to settle" with them in the ministry. The meeting "voated that the same be Excepted, Granted and Elowed in the value maner and Proportion, as is expressed and set forth in the Report." They choose a committee to "wait upon Mr. Noah Mirick with a Copy of said Report and the aforesaid voat, for his Answer," and adjourn to the "Eighteenth Day" of the month, seven days, to give Mr. Merrick time to consider the conditions and prepare his answer.

To us of the present day, when we consider the smallness of the number and the poorness of the possessions of the members of the precinct, the salary and settlement seem generous. Mr. Merrick evidently had some of the wisdom of the children of this world, as well as that of the children of light. At any rate, at the adjourned meeting, "it was considered that the offers for the encouragement of Mr. Noah Mirick's settling with us as our minister were not sufficient." This is certainly very modestly stated, and relieves Mr. Merrick from all suspicion of having offensively pressed a bargain of his solicitous hearers. It is very probable that he had hinted some additional favors which they might render him, which, while they would cost little but labor, would be to him as acceptable as gold, for they vote "to provide the timber for a Dwel-

ing House for said Mr. Mirick, which was not included in the former voat;" also to "Hue, frame, and Raise said building, for said Mr. Mirick." Meanwhile Joseph Wright and Daniel Warner, who were chosen a committee to take the advice of three neighboring ministers, have made their weary journey through the woods to South Hadley, obtained the opinions of three ministers there assembled, and have safely returned with the advice of Samuel Allis, James Bridgham, and Edward Billings, which is in the following words: "These may signifye that upon Application made to us by a Committee from a Place called Springfield Mountains, of their choice of Mr. Noah Mirick for their minister, that we approve of their Choice, and Heartily Commend him and them to the Divine Blessing." The advice is acceptable, of course, for these men of "a Place called Springfield Mountains" had already strained a point to make the salary and settlement satisfactory to the minister.

The meeting adjourns to the 26th, and receives the answer that "the worthy Mr. Mirick gave to the call that he should settle in the Ministry heare," in the following letter:—

"*To the inhabitants of the fourth preeinct in Springfield convened, and*

"Dear Friends: I have now more thoroughly Considered your voats Relating to my settling among you, and must Confess that the matter Looks dark Enough

with Regard to my support, Your encouragements, you must needs be sensible, being but small; but, however, Considering your Present Circumstances and the great need you stand in of a minister, and considering further the unanimity you have Discovered in your Choice and the seeming call of Divine Providence, I dare not think of leaving you.

"I have therefore determined (puting my trust in him who Careth for us all) to Except of your invitation with hopes and Expectations of your future Kindness to me, and your Readiness, att all times, to contribute to my support and comfort, as God shall give you ability; and the Lord grant that we may live togeather in Love while we are hear, and when we go home may set down togeather in the Kingdom of our Lord and Savr Jesus Christ, to whom be glory, both now and forever. Amen.

"Noah Mirick.

"Springfield, May 26, 1741."

The meeting at once votes to "Chuse a Committee to confer and agree with Mr. Noah Mirick Relating to the time of his ordination, and also what Churches to apply to for assistance in the ordination, and to act in other affairs Dependent thereupon," who are to make "a Return of their Proceeding to the next meeting that shall be called."

Events now thicken. The great day of desire is near at hand. A special meeting of the precinct is called, by a new warrant, May 29. Daniel Par-

sons "moderates" the meeting; and, with a pride which we cannot quite admire, and with an indiscretion which the fervor of their enthusiasm at the near prospect of having a minister all their own will certainly excuse, they voted "That the Ordination of the worthy Mr. Noah Mirick shall be in the oldest Parish in Springfield, if Liberty can be obtained;" and, "that the Committee shall take care that suitable Provisions be made for the Entertainment of those called to Assist in said Ordination, att the expense of the Precinct."

Whether "Liberty" could not be obtained, by a wise overruling of Providence, or by the obstinate unbrotherliness of the "oldest Parish in Springfield," or whether the Warriners and Blisses and Warners came to their right minds after the meeting, which is to be hoped, they were saved that long, dreary, wearisome journey across the plains, through the woods and swamps, by a final determination to have the ordination of their own minister among their own dwellings. Accordingly, a large oak-tree was selected as the place of ordination, then standing in front of the house where Mrs. Brainard Brewer now resides, and a rude pulpit of rough boards was constructed, and a few seats of boards and logs arranged around it to accommodate the people.

The morning of the great day to this people came at last; but it came not clear and balmy and fragrant as June mornings usually are; it was lowering, and the sky was unpropitious. The "ministers and

their dellegates and students," had come from Hadley and Springfield and Longmeadow and Brimfield, and the grave council was sitting in solemn deliberation, we may suppose, at Nathaniel Warriner's. The people were gathering, — Daniel Lamb from the plains, David Chapin from the mountains, the Bartletts, and Blisses, and Burts. The venerable oak seemed to feel the honor done it, and beckoned them lovingly to its shelter, if not to its shade. The little children were restrained in their desire to run upon the seats and even climb into the rude yet sacred pulpit, by the stern rebuke and grave remonstrance of their parents: "There might be bears in the swamp!" The sun was getting high, and the clouds were growing thick. Yet the council did not come. A very serious difficulty had arisen, which the learned and worthy ministers and their "Dellegates" could not remove. In organizing the church, before proceeding to ordain the minister, they found that there were but six members, — an insufficient number. There must be, said the venerable council, seven. On what ground this reason for not proceeding with the ordination was set up, does not appear; indeed, there is no record of either the members or the proceedings of the council. Seven members, for some reason, *must* be had, and there were but six. The proceedings were all in abeyance. At last, grace was given to one man, who stated that he had long thought of joining the church, to give in his name, and make up both the sacred and required

number seven, thus relieving the reverend council of their difficulty, and the wondering audience of their impatience. But they were not soon enough to escape the gathering storm. Hardly had they reached the hospitable oak, when it began to rain, and they were compelled to adjourn the service to a neighboring barn, on the place where Mrs. Gale and Mrs. Mears now reside. Here the ordination services were performed. The hymn was sung, the prayer was offered, the charge was given, the sermon preached, the benediction pronounced, and the audience departed to their homes, with hearts overflowing with joy, that the Lord had heard their prayers, and given them so good a man for their minister as him whom they loved to call the "worthy Mr. Mirick." The reverend council, their delegates, and students, after again partaking of the hospitalities of these frugal people at the houses of Warriner and Brewer, and spending the night, start in the early morning for their distant homes, leaving behind them good wishes and prayers fragrant as the flowers.[1]

The promises are made. We must now trace with faithful pen the fulfilment of those promises, — the struggle of the people to pay what they had pledged in the hour of ardent desire, and the struggle of the minister to retain the affections, rebuke the sins, and cherish the virtues of his parishioners. The work before them is difficult, and they will need wisdom ; it will be long, and they will need patience. The "Wor-

[1] Appendix D.

thy Mr. Mirick's" house is to be built; the meeting-house is to be located and built; the expenses of the ordination are to be paid; enough is to be done to challenge all their strength, and command all their skill.

At the first precinct meeting, held after the ordination, Nov. 6, 1741, it was voted, by what authority I know not, but as if in gratitude for having secured a shepherd to care for the sheep of the great Shepherd, "to build a pound in this precinct att the Charge of the precinct," so that the cattle should also be saved from doing themselves or their owners harm. Then came before them next the very difficult subject of locating the meeting-house, for now settlers had begun to come into the extreme southern portion of the precinct. To give time for consultation apparently, the meeting is adjourned for "half an hour." The question is too important to be determined in half an hour, and the meeting is adjourned for one month, to Dec. 7, "att nine of the clock in the morning." They met but were not ready to act, and "adjourned to one of the clock in the afternoon." Once again they met. They are resolved; and it was "Voted that the 1st Meeting House or House for the Public Worship of God shall be sett on the Land Called the Over Plus Land in the Middle Division," a strip across the precinct from east to west, four miles long, as will be remembered, and eighty-two rods wide. This was as near as they could come to agreeing upon a location after a month's special consideration and four

meetings. To determine on "what Place or Spot in the Over Plus Land of the Middle Division said Meeting House shall be Erected," they "voted to choose three men," and accordingly chose "James Wood of Summers, John Shearman, Esq., of Brimfield, and Ephraim Terry of Endfield," for that purpose.

Another meeting was called, Dec. 14, 1741, within just one week, at which the chief business was to raise and appropriate money. They "Voted and granted to Rev. Mr. Noah Mirick Fifty Pounds in money for half a years salary;" to "Nathaniel Warriner six pounds, one shilling and sixpence for his keeping the Minister's Dellagates and Scholars at the time of the Ordination;" to "Aaron Stebbins for the Expense he was att in Geting the Deed of the Over Plus Land further executed one pound ten shilling;" to "Isaac Brewer ten shilling for keeping the Ministers Dellagates and Scholars Horses att the time of the aforesaid Ordination;" and also "Ten Shilling for the Boards and Nails he provided for a Pulpit and y^{e} work he did tords y^{e} same;" to "David Mirick four shillings for the work he did tords the same;" to "Revernd Mr. Noah Mirick Forty Pounds for Twenty Sabbaths Preaching before he was ordained;" to "Nathaniel Wariner for keeping Mr. Mirick and his Mair Eleven Pounds Ten Shilling;" to "Sam^{ll} Stebbins, Jun^{r}., Three Shilling for keeping the Revernd Mr. Mirick's Mair Last Spring;" to "Thomas Mirick, 2d, one Pound Twelve Shillings for his Expense in pursuing a Petition in the General Court in Behalf of this Precinct;"

to "Abel Bliss fifteen Shilling" for the same service; "Granted also Seven Pounds in money for Contingent Charges to be Disposed of by the Committee of this Precinct;" to "Daniel Warner for his Geting Mr. Mirick's Mair kept Last Spring two Pounds;" "Voated to Chuse a Committee to se that Mirick's house be sett up agreeable to the Precinct's Obligation;" "Granted Twenty Pounds to Defray the Charge of Providing a Scriber and Building a House for the Reverend Mr. Mirick;" "Voated that Isaac Brewer" (he seems to have kept a house of public entertainment or infant "tavern") Shall entertain the Committee appointed to Determine a Place or spot" for setting the "first Meeting House att the Charge of the Precinct;" "Voated that fourty one Pound fifteen shillings and six pence of the money Granted at this Meeting shall be Raised of the Poles and Rateable Estates of the Inhabitants of this Precinct;" and finally, "Voated that the whole sum of *one Hundred fourty one Pound fifteen Shilling and six pence*, that was Granted att this meeting shall be Disposed of by the Committee of this Precinct." Such was the generous sum raised to liquidate past obligations and accomplish future undertakings.

It will be observed that the smallest services rendered by any inhabitant of the Precinct were paid for. Very little if anything seems to have been voluntarily given. This peculiarity will be more prominently manifested hereafter than it is now, and the items of money raised and appropriated are sometimes ludicrously small, as for

instance, (1757) "Voted and Granted to Mr. Mirick's Negro for fetching Clay from Town four pence three farthings;" and at another meeting of the Precinct Dec. 5, 1741, "fifteen shillings" each was "Voated to Daniel Warner and Joseph Wright for their service in Procuring advice of the Neighboring Ministers Respecting Mr. Mirick's settling as their Minister." Certainly justice was done, if generosity was not abounding. At this meeting the Committee on locating the meeting-house presented their report. We can easily imagine with what eagerness and solicitude these "freeholders and Other inhabitants of the fourth Precinct in Springfield qualified and assembled according to law att the Dwelling House of Isaac Brewer" listened to the important finding of their disinterested Committee selected from "neighboring towns." It is too important a document to be passed over with a simple reference. It read as follows: —

"Whereas we the subscribers being Chosen a Committee by a vote of the Freeholders and inhabitants of the fourth Precinct in Springfield to Determine what Place or spot in the over plus land in the Middle Division where the first Meeting House should be Erected or set up and haveing heard the Pleas of the inhabitants Relating to the said Affair and having Considered maturely thereon, Doe mutualy Agree and Determine said Meeting House to be set up on that hill lying in the over plus Land and about six score Rods East of the Westermost Rode in said Precinct and about sixty or seventy

rods West or Westerly of the top of wigwam Hill so Called and Southerly of a Run of Water that Runs out of the mountains there being a small Black Oak Tree marked on the South side with a cross on said Hill.

"Springfield, December 17th, A. D. 1741.

"JOHN SHERMAN,
JAMES WOOD,
EPHRAIM TERRY,
} Committe."

When the reading was finished, it was "Voated, Excepted in the full intent Contents and Limitations Expressed and set forth in said Committe's Report." The great question now apparently settled, there is a lull in the storm of Precinct meetings, and work is commenced in earnest on Rev. Mr. Merrick's house. At a meeting, held May 14, 1742, no less than twenty-nine separate grants, in sums from five pounds down to six shillings, are made of money in "old tenor," to pay for work on it. Rather perhaps I should say that each man's work was credited on his tax, so that when he "hewed," "carted slit work up the mountain," "sleded rafters," "worked a framing," "drew timber," "sled limbe," or "furnished his Team and Boy for most of a Day" the amount earned was deducted from his tax; or if the value of his work exceeded his tax he was paid the balance in money. The work on Mr. Merrick's house seems to have been pushed forward so that it was soon occupied by its owner.

Of the progress of building the meeting-house, we

hear nothing till Nov. 4, 1742. when "Eighty Pound Old tenor bills are Voated and Granted to Provide Matterials toard Building a Meeting House in this Precinct, viz: Nails, Glass, Covering, &c;" and "David Mirick, Sam[ll] Stebbins, Daniel Cadwell, Sam[ll] Bartlett and Abel Bliss are chosen a "Committee to Take Care and Provide Materials in Order to Build said Meeting House." The winter of 1743 is improved by drawing "good pine boards, one inch thick," and "quarter boards," and "good Marchantable pine Boards," and "good Seader Shingles," and "good Spruse Shingles without sap" up "on that Hill aponted by a Committee Chosen by this Precinct to Erect the first Meeting house on." The labor warms on the bleakest days as the teams of Merrick and Warriner and Bliss and Stebbins and Brewer and Burt and Langdon smoke, dragging their loads up "Wigwam Hill." In May the Precinct "voates" them their pay for work done, and we imagine that the hammers and saws, the hewers and the framers are following close upon the "Scriber" as he lays out the work, improving every day, between planting and hoeing, and haying and sowing, so that when the autumn comes, the doors of the sanctuary will be opened for worshippers. Alas for human anticipations! Instead of this expected result, we find that at a Meeting, Nov. 29, an attempt is made to change the location of the meeting-house; but it was not successful, for, Dec. 8, 1743, it is "Voated to build a meeting-house on that spot of Land that this Precinct voated to build one on in a former meeting," and also

that the "Precinct Committee shall take care to Provide a Place for the Carring on the Worship of God."

So the matter rested for more than a year; for the next information we have is in the doings of the precinct meeting, April 18, 1745, when it is "Voated that the meeting house shall be set by the West Rode of this Precinct on the Land Called the Over Pluss Land in the Midle Division." The "good pine boards," and "Seader Shingles" had been dragged two years before up the great "Wigwam Hill," nearly half a mile east of the "west Rode." Surely the wisdom of the fathers is failing them. The "Worthy Mr. Mirick" has already built his house there, among other reasons perhaps, because the meeting-house was to be built there. A storm is evidently gathering. The precinct has secured a "Law Booke" to aid and guide its action. This fact is ominous. The "Wigwam Hill" and the "west Rode" parties rally their strength at the next meeting, Oct. 28, 1745, and the favorers of the "hill" carry it; for it is "Voated to Build the Meeting House on the Hill Called Wigwam Hill" and "to Chuse some judicious men to advise us to some measure whereby we may Establish a Place where to Erect a Meeting House in this Precinct;" and it was "Voated that Mr. John Worthington, Mr. Francis Ball, and Mr. Timothy Nash be advisers in the affair aforesaid;" and Caleb Stebbins is to "apply himself to said advisors in behalf of the Precinct." Caleb Stebbins failed in his mission, or the Committee would not act, or could not be assembled, or else they were merely to

give advice, and did advise a Committee, for, Nov. 4, 1745, it is "Voated to Chuse a Committee to determine the Place or Spot on the Overplus Land on y^e^ Middle Division, *viewing the land at large*, where the first Meeting House shall be erected," and that "Ensign William King, Lieutenant Abraham Adams, and Leut. Thomas Jones" be that Committee. Surely this array of military talent must put to rout all opposers.

The next vote which is passed at this meeting seems to specify more definitely the powers of the Committee, and the purposes of the precinct.

"Voated, That Leut. Abraham Adams, of Suffield, Ens^n^ William King, of Suffield, and Leut. Thomas Jones, of Endfield, be a Committee to appoint and Determine in what Place in the Over Plus Land in the midle division in this Precinct, it is most fit for this Precinct to build their Meeting House, and that the Place which they shall appoint *shall be the Place of Seting it*, and that the Meeting House *be* set there accordingly, at the charge of this Precinct, and of such Dementions as this Precinct shall determine;" and Nathaniel Warriner is directed "to apply to the Committee," and "Daniel Parsons and Nathaniel Bliss to wait on the afores^d^ committee in showing of them the Land." The meeting was then adjourned to Nov. 18, — two weeks, — when the report of the committee was received, whose decision they had voted should be final. The committee say: "Pursuant to the trust Reposed in us by said Precinct, after viewing the Land and hear-

ing the Pleas in said Precinct, we Judge and Determine that the Meeting House be built on a Hill Commonly Called Wigwam Hill, about seven or eight and twenty Rods southward of the house of Rev. Noah Mirick [which was opposite the place where Pliny Merrick's house now stands], and about seven Rods south westward from a pine tree which we have markt with an ax as wittness our hands this sixteenth day of November, 1745." The good people generously paid Adams and King, of Suffield, each "four pounds," and "Jones, of Enfield, three pounds, fifteen shilling, old tenor, for their services; and Nathaniel Bliss and Daniel Parsons each "one pound five shillings for Rideing with the Committe 2 days & half;" and Dea. Nathaniel Warriner "one Pound six Pence for Procuring the Committee, and two Pound twelve shilling & six Pence," all in "Old Tenor, for Keeping said Committe and their Horses."

The meetings on Sunday having been held in Daniel Parsons's house, he was paid for its use for the year ending March 22, 1746, "two Pounds, old tenor;" and in May there are "Voated and granted to Isaac Brewer, att the Rate of three pounds old tenor per year, for the use of his Chamber to Cary on the publick worship in," and "that he shall have Reasonable Elowance for fitting up said Chamber for the Decent Carrying on the worship in." Subsequently, March 17, 1747, there was "Voated and granted to Isaac Brewer two shillings, old tenor, for his service in Riging up his

chamber for the Publick Worship, with the nails he Provided."

Everything now seems to be very well arranged. A temporary place of worship is provided, and the site of the meeting-house decided; nothing remains but to go on and finish the building. Still things did not run smoothly. The Precinct had for some cause got into a law-suit with Daniel Parsons; the owners would not pay "the two pence per acre" land tax, and suits were growing up because the lands were sold to pay them. It seemed desirable to some "that the Lands that were given to the Rev. Mr. Mirick should be exempt from the tax laid upon it, Either in whole or in part;" and, more than all, the old meeting-house question would not remain settled, but thrust itself up through votes, decisions of committees, and repeated settlements; and, March 4, 1747, the Precinct "Voats to Chuse Ensign Joseph Sexton, of Summers, Leut^{nt} Joseph Blocket, of Brimfield, and Leut^{nt} Gersham Makepiece, of Western, a committee "to locate the meeting house, and that they have liberty to set it *in any place in the Precinct*, and said committee shall view the lands of said Precinct *at large, or till they be satisfied*." They no longer confine their inquiries even to the "Overplus Land." The town is "all before them where to choose."

A committee is chosen "to show them the land;" another, to entertain them; another, of six members, "to take care to build the meeting-house, at the cost of the

Precinct where it is located," making it "forty-five feet long, thirty-five feet wide, and of suitable height."

On the "first Monday in May, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon," it is "Voated that the award of the committee be accepted and recorded;" which was as follows: "We doe award, Prefix, & Determine that the spot or place where their meeting House ought to be set, is on the Hill Commonly Called the Wigwam Hill, the centre of said spot being att a walnut Staddle of about four or five inches Diameter, there being a fast stone in the Ground, about two feet and a half northwest of said staddle; said staddle standing twenty-eight Rods & sixteen Links, Running by a point of compass from the southwest corner of Mr. Noah Mirick's dwelling-house, south sixteen degrees thirty minits East unto said staddle." [1]

It is done. After a struggle of six years, the "place, or spot of setting the meeting-house" is determined. Warriner's "seadar shingles," and Brewer's "good pine timber," and Stebbins's "Marchantable pine boards," and Warner's "slit work" have been seasoning and rotting on the hill for four years, waiting for the builders. The hour has come. Teams, boards, saws, hammers, axes, are now busy; and so much progress had been made in the work, that, December 25, 1747, a precinct meeting is to be held, "at the house of Nathaniel Hitchcock *or* House of Publick Worship." And

[1] I find by future notices that there was a common of about two acres on which the meeting-house was placed.

again, March 15, 1748, the precinct meeting is said to have been notified in the same way. In January 23, 1749, the precinct meeting was opened at the meeting-house, but adjourned to the house of Nathaniel Hitchcock, because, as I judge, it was too cold to remain for the transaction of business, where they could endure to remain, warmed by the fervors of devotion, to worship. There is no date of the first assembling for worship in the meeting-house; but it was earlier than this, for in the church records it is stated that "Charles, son of Isaac Brewer, was baptized in the meeting-house, December 25, 1748." Unquestionably the house was used for public worship at this time. That it was not used for that purpose much earlier is rendered very probable by the record of the next earlier baptism, October 30, 1748.

There is no record of any dedication services. It is probable that the settlers worshipped there as soon as the building was covered. Indeed, it was a mere shell for three years. The timbers of the frame were all exposed on the inside; the seats were loose boards, or slabs with legs in them; the pulpit was a rough box; not a trowel of mortar nor an ounce of paint was anywhere to be seen. The boards on the floor were loose; the windows were mostly of boards; very few panes of glass were used, if indeed any; the winds whistled through the crevices, and the snow drifted over the floor and seats in the winter. Three years after this time, January 15, 1752, it is voted to

further finish the meeting-house by "Ceiling and Plastering, in order to make it warm, and if there be any Money Remaining, to Lay it out in Procuring material for seats."

Such was the house our fathers erected in their poverty for the honor and worship of God. This was their "hill of Zion," this their sanctuary. As they went up to worship, the land lay spread out before them. From its door the whole valley of the "Great River," from the mountains on the north, Holyoke and Tom, to below Hartford on the south, was visible. The open fields of the first settlers — of Burt and Hitchcock and Brewer and Warriner and Merrick — were under their feet; and on to the west, over forests and meadows, could be seen the blue line of vapor, signalizing the homes of the old settlers in Springfield Street; or the white cloud of fog, lying low along the tree-tops, indicating the course of the river from its gateway between the mountains to the settlement at Middletown. And beyond, more than twenty miles away, rose the blue ridges of the Green Mountains, tipped with gold in the morning, veiled in purple in the evening; and when the frosts touched the forest in autumn, how the red maple flamed among the trees; and the green of the pines and the yellow of the walnut caused the whole vast landscape to appear like a gorgeous carpet woven in the loom of the gods. The Lord's house was exalted upon the hills, and hither the tribes came up to worship. Daniel

Lamb turns his face eastward; Springfield is no more his chief joy; and Warner, from Stony Hill, and Sykes, from the "Great Rode," and Chapin, from the mountain, wind their way, when the "Sabbath" morning comes, through field and bridle-path and cart-road, to the meeting-house; and Henry Badger, from Burt's Mill, in the present South Parish, five miles away, rouses his family even earlier than usual from their slumbers, plentifully feeds the trusty farm-horse for his hard day's work, and before the dew is off the grass, he starts, with his wife and little ones, on the way to Zion. Benjamin Skinner and Phineas Stebbins join him as he passes, and when they reach the site of the present South Parish Church, they find that Comfort Chaffee, from the hill south of Scantic, and William King, on the corner, have already started, and are on the way. They turn to the right up the hill, wearily climbing the mountain through the woods, past where the Widow Orin Cone now resides, — a timid deer now and then pausing a moment to gaze at the strange sight, then bounding away among the trees; a frightened partridge breaking the silence by whirring off through the bushes; — till the procession, on horseback, and on foot, — for now, as before, to Springfield, the young men and the maidens thought the walk most delightful, — reached the road that came up from the west side of the mountain, at Samuel Stebbins's, where they met Paul Langdon, with the only wagon in the precinct, who had not only taken in his own

family, but Abner Chapin's, south of the Scantic, and Stephen Stebbins's, north of it; and Lewis Langdon and Aaron Stebbins, who had come on horseback with their wives and little ones; and they all went on together up to the place of the sanctuary. They made their horses fast to the trees about the meeting-house, and after Christian inquiries for such news of their households and the precinct as their curiosity compelled and reverence could not restrain, they entered the sanctuary, of which, if they could not exclaim with David, "How amiable are thy tabernacles," they could cry out with the royal poet, "The sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of Hosts, my God and my King!"

After they were as comfortably seated as possible on the benches, in such order as had been prescribed, the "Worthy Rev. Noah Mirick," with wig or powdered hair and cue, bands and small-clothes and silk stockings and shoe-buckles of silver, entered the house, the congregation all rising as a token of respect. He read a hymn, then handed the book over the top of the rough pulpit — for there was but one hymn-book in the precinct, and that was the minister's — to Deacon Nathaniel Warriner, who named the tune, gave the pitch, read one line of the hymn, and commenced singing it; Warner and Brewer and Langdon and Stebbins and Moses and David and Hosea and Huldah and Jemima and Ruth following after, as ability

and strength permitted; the deacon considerately, and as became the service of God's house, waiting, before he gave out another line, till the most dilatory had finished. When the hymn was ended, the minister solemnly prayed, the congregation all reverently rising. When the prayer was over, another hymn was sung in the same manner. Then the sermon was preached, not seldom interspersed with the twittering of swallows above, or the crying of babies below. At last the benediction is pronounced, and the minister leaves the pulpit and passes out first, the congregation all standing, as when he entered. The families now gather about in groups to eat their frugal dinners from the logs and stumps, which were abundant. The short intermission over, the afternoon service follows, similar, in all respects, to the morning; after which they mount their horses, Paul Langdon again loading his marvellous wagon, and reach their homes at the going down of the sun, grateful that God has cast "their lines in pleasant places, and that they have a goodly heritage." Saturday evening is "kept" by these pioneers. So when the "chores" are done, and the sun is set, they are already "dressed," and ready to call upon their neighbors in a social or more affectionate way. Thus passes the "Sabbath," now the "Meeting House" is built on "Wigwam Hill, and the "Worthy Mr. Mirick prophecies" therein.

But I must not linger any longer around these early

days and doings of our fathers; a long way is yet before us to travel, and heroic deeds yet invite our rehearsal.

The "Meeting House" is occupied, it is true, but it is far from being finished; and the remaining sixteen years of this period are witness to more or less earnest labor to build pews and seats; to put in galleries; to plaster about the pulpit; to lay the gallery floor; to build seats in it; to plaster under it; and finally to plaster the house wholly in 1756, nine years after it was occupied for worship. Before the last finishings were made, while the town was a precinct, the committee are enjoined to repair the roof, which was leaking badly. The gallery seats were not all put in till the summer of 1761, sixteen years after the house was opened for worship.

But finishing the meeting house was an easy thing to do compared with the difficulty of "seating" it. This was work indeed. As there were no pews built for the first six years, there was no "seating" of the congregation till Sept. 24, 1753, when a committee was chosen to attend to that duty. The precinct voted, "that the Rev. Mr. Noah Mirick have Choice of a pew;" "that the men and Wimen be seated togeather;" "to Leave it with the Committee how Young Persons shall be seated;" and also "to Leave it to the Discreasion of the Committee by what Rule they shall be seated." There is no record either of the "seating" or of the "Rule" of this "seating;" nor is there any record of the rule adopted at any of the subsequent "seatings." We know, however,

that it was customary to "seat" persons in order of age, or of civil or military dignity. The eldest persons occupied the best, or highest pew, — for the highest pew in honor was often far from being best in position, — and those younger, the lower pews; and only heads of families occupied the pews on the floor of the house. The young men and maidens, the boys and the girls, were "seated" in the gallery, after it was so far finished that it could be occupied, where the opportunities and temptations of fun were abundant and not seldom attractive and irresistible, and where the services of the Lord's house were not always visible and sometimes not audible.

Persons were often dissatisfied with their seats; and it was not till after repeated trials that the audience were quietly disposed in their allotted pews and seats. I find that in 1754 a committee was chosen to "Rectify the mistakes of the former committee and to *dignifie the seats*." After further seats had been built and galleries put in and finished, January 1, 1760, the meeting-house is seated anew, but the "seating" was so unsatisfactory that another committee was raised in March to review the work of the former committee. The report of the first committee is recorded, that of the last is not. Here for the first time we have the names of the families in the precinct, and we can make a tolerably correct estimate of the number of inhabitants here at this time. There are seventy-three men and six widows named, who are presumed to be heads of families, and

who occupy pews and seats on the lower floor. Of these, twenty-one are from what is now the South Parish. In the galleries there are seated twenty-six young men and thirty-one young women, fifty-seven in all. We shall not be far from the truth, therefore, if we estimate the whole population of the precinct at this time at three hundred and fifty persons, at least; perhaps there were four hundred; of these about one hundred and ten or twenty were within the bounds of the present South Parish.

Another very important subject, and difficult to manage, was the disposal which should be made of both the "Ministry Lot" and the "Overplus Land," a part of which, that the south side of the Middle Division, on which Rev. Mr. Merrick's house stood, had been sold to him, but that on the south side of the Third Division, where the Langdons had settled, was still the common property of all the proprietors, and of course in part that of the precinct, as the "Ministry Lot" was by supposition a proprietor. After long and tedious delays and impending lawsuits, the whole matter was at last disposed of so far to the satisfaction of all parties that it *was* disposed of, and could no longer be matter of question or dispute.

As there were two "Ministry Lots" within the bounds of the precinct, — the one in the Middle or Second Division running across where Warren Collins's farm is, and the other in the Third Division where Mr. William V. Sessions's farm is, — and as these "lots" were the

common property of the town of Springfield and, hence the other precincts—Springfield, West Springfield, and Longmeadow—had a right to a proportionate share of their value, it was no easy task to satisfy, in any considerable degree, any of the parties. At last, however, this was also arranged, after repeated conferences of committees and years of discussion and concession. The income of the money obtained by the sale of these "ministry lots" is part of the fund for the support of the ministry which the respective parishes now have. By repeated conferences and compromises, the claims of Rev. Mr. Merrick to all the "Overplus Land" of the Middle or Second Division, about eight hundred and seventy-five acres, were so disposed of as to leave him a large and valuable farm, and the larger sympathy of his people. It is much to the credit of all parties that these land questions, so complicated and delicate, where so many proprietors were concerned, so many interests involved, were at last disposed of with so little ill blood and so equitably.

The adjustment of Mr. Merrick's salary, which was estimated by the market value of certain necessary articles of consumption, became exceedingly difficult as the prices of the articles were fluctuating, and especially as the "Old tenor" currency so rapidly depreciated, and "Lawfull money" took its place in 1749. No new estimate of prices is recorded as having been made since his settlement in 1741 up to this time. We find that a large committee of "nine men" was raised, Dec. 24,

1750, "to make a new agreement with the Reverend Mr. Noah Mirick Relating to his salary for the future." It is evident that the committee found their task a hard one, for there is no report from them till January 9, 1753, three years after they were chosen. They then report a new scale of prices of commodities, changing the value of money from "Old Tenor" to "Lawfull Money," calling £326, 10s. 1d. £43, 10s. 8d.; and every year hereafter, till 1760, a committee is chosen to agree with Mr. Merrick on the prices of commodities, and thus fix the value of his salary. In that year, January 1, 1760, they "choose a Comtee to State ye Revd Mr. Mirick's Salary for the time to come." They report a fixed sum "in Lawfull Money" and nothing is said of "commodaties." Each year, for three years, a committee was chosen to agree with Mr. Merrick upon the amount of his salary till the town was incorporated, when the old system of prices of commodities was revived.

It is probable that troubles arising out of Mr. Merrick's claims to so much land, which necessarily brought him into antagonism with many of his people, and the almost insurmountable difficulties in arranging his salary, were the cause of some church difficulties which arose about 1754. I find that at a precinct meeting held, June 10, 1754, the following votes were passed, "Voated and Granted the sum of five Pounds Lawfull Money for defraying the Charges of Entertaining the Counsel to set in this Place on ye 17th of June next," also "Voated & Granted to Dea. Nathll Warriner the

sum of ten shillings Lawfull Money for Keeping the former Counsel." There is no record in the precinct or church books of the calling of this "former Counsel," nor of the proceedings or objects of either. But I find in the church records, June 21, 1754, that six persons make "publick confession of y^r guilt in absenting from y^e Lord's table," and four more, with five of these, "make publick confession in publickly Exhibiting and signing a Paper of Reproachful Charges ag^t y^e Pastor." They "were accepted by y^e church." What this paper was, what these charges were, I have found no means of determining. Eight out of the ten persons "making confession" were of the present South Parish. It is very probable that the "counsels" spoken of in the precinct records had something to do with this difficulty.

So the "Worthy Rev. Mr. Noah Mirick" found that the chastenings of the people if not of the Lord were laid upon him. We may learn that ministers and parishes now are not more troubled by "exciting subjects" than were those of "the olden time." It is not the quality of the subject, but the nature of man, which causes division; and till he can run away from himself there will be found occasion and existence of contention.

Our ancestors, though so engaged in the establishment of their religious institutions, did not forget their schools. As I have already stated, the *town* of Springfield commenced appropriations for schools in the "Outward Commons, on the east side of the Great River, commonly called the Mountain," as early as 1737, and £16 were

appropriated, during the four years next preceding the incorporation of the precinct. During this period of the precinct, a regular annual appropriation of money for the fourth precinct was made by Springfield till 1763, when the town was incorporated. The whole amount appropriated up to 1755, during which years the sums annually appropriated are stated in the Springfield records, was one hundred and fifty-five pounds, thirteen shillings and three pence, averaging ten pounds, seven shillings and six pence a year. For nine years this money is in "old tenor" which was about seventy-five per cent. discount for "Lawfull money," which was the rate of reckoning after 1749. The amount usually appropriated annually during these last six years was four pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence; and in 1755, when the "rate of distribution was changed," we received "six pounds, sixteen shillings and seven pence." This money was often put, by vote, into the hands of Dea. Nathaniel Warriner, to be disposed of as he judged best for the interest of schooling in the precinct.[1]

Before 1754, a school-house was built nearly opposite to where the present Congregational Church stands, for, January 31, 1754, a precinct meeting is held "att the School House in said Precinct." The name and fame of the early teacher, for years town and church clerk, Ezra Barker, usually called Master Barker, have come down to us bearing a multitude of traditions of his wit and of his rod, of the pranks of the boys and the tricks of the

[1] Appendix E.

girls, some probable, some true, some gross, some ingenious. That he was a good penman the records of both town and church testify, and I certainly, if no one else, owe him a debt of gratitude for the excellent manner in which he has kept the records and blessed my eyes.

A few roads were laid out by the town of Springfield within the precinct, and some by the county; but they were mere cart- or bridle-paths leading from one neighborhood and clearing to another. No work appears to have been done on them but to pick out a few stones, make crossings over a few brooks, and cut away the trees and bushes when they intruded too closely on the path.[1]

No literary productions have come down from this period except the precinct records, specimens of which are now for the first time printed; a remnant of the "Jurnal of Samuel Warner," entitled "Clark," kept during the expedition, of which he was a member, to Ticonderoga and Crown Point during the French War, 1759; and a celebrated poem, on the death of "Leut. Thomas Mirick's only Son," who "dyed, August 7th, 1761, By the Bite of a Ratle Snake, Being 22 years, two months and three days old, and very nigh marridge," as faithful Clark Warner records. This poem had a wide circulation in both manuscript and print, and is the great Elegy of the "Mountains." Like the author of another immortal poem, the Iliad, its author and his residence are alike mythical; but his work and his fame have

[1] Appendix F.

endured, and if, as in the case of the author of the immortal Greek poem,

> "Ten famous towns contend for Homer dead,
> Through which the living Homer begged his bread,"

Longmeadow and Ludlow and Springfield will strive to rob Wilbraham of the honor of giving him birth and guarding his ashes, they cannot rob us of the unspeakable glory of having within our borders the grave of the immortal subject of the poem. Without waiting to invoke the aid of muses or gods, either sacred or profane, the poet, seized and carried away with the magnitude and inspiration of his subject, burst forth, —

> "On Springfield Mountains there did dwell
> A Likely youth who was known full well,
> Leutenant Mirick's only sone
> A likely youth nigh twenty-one."

I may well be excused from repeating the pathetic lines which follow, as I am informed that better justice can be done them by the plaintive music of "y^e^ olden tyme" in which they will be sung after we are refreshed at the table.[1]

The military eclipsed the literary renown of this period. Capt. Samuel Day, Lieut. Thomas Merrick, and Ensign Abel Bliss were commissioned as officers before 1754; and for the French War which raged during this period, 1755–1760, the precinct furnished at least twenty-two men, whose names are enrolled in the

[1] Appendix G.

archives of the State as among the patriots of that early period. Of these was Samuel Warner, who kept a Journal of the expedition of 1759, many of whose precious leaves have perished, and Isaac Colton, 3d, a precious memorial of whose patriotism is a will, made June 14, 1759, in which he disposes of his estate "on condition of not returning from s[d] expedition," and witnessed by "Noah Merick and Abigail Merick." Thus early the spirit of patriotism inspired our citizens which has grown deeper and stronger to this hour.[1]

The agricultural products of the town were becoming more various and more abundant; the cultivated fields were growing broader and richer every year. The houses were more convenient and more comfortable in the winter season. Still there was little which would gratify the tastes or supply what would now be called the necessaries of a comfortable home. Bare floors, bare walls, scant furniture, the oaken table and chest and pine "settle" were the chief adornings of the frugal home. One marked exception is made, however, to this condition of the houses of the early settlers. Ensign Abel Bliss, whose enterprise and thrift have lost nothing in descent through three generations to his great grandson, your townsman, John Wesley Bliss, who inherits and improves the old estate, is said to have gathered pine-knots and hearts, called candle-wood, with which our grandfathers and grandmothers illuminated their dwellings, in the south part of Ludlow and Belchertown,

[1] Appendix H.

— it being forbidden to gather them but for lights in the precinct,—and built a tar-kiln from which he made two hundred barrels of tar, which he sold for five dollars a barrel, realizing one thousand dollars, and built therewith a house which was the admiration, perhaps the envy, of all the people.[1]

At the commencement of this period, families began to come into the south part of the town. But, as I have already stated, there was not a settler within the present limits of the town south of the present division line of the parishes before 1741. South of a line drawn due east and west across the town, on the south side of Mr. Cross's farm, there was not a house or cultivated field.

Stand with me on the top of the hill by Mr. Isaac Watts Leach's house, (the people of the South Parish will understand me,) and lift your eyes toward the south and west and northwest. Where now you behold fruitful fields and white farm-houses, one of the loveliest prospects in the town, was then unbroken by plough, untrodden by man. Spaces desolated by fires, and extended forests, are spread out before you. Not a smoke ascends from a settler's cabin, not an axe-blow breaks the profound silence. The Scantic flows through the mountains unobstructed by dam, unvexed by water-wheel; and through the meadows it creeps languidly under the overshadowing alders and button-woods and elms, whose tops were covered with grape-

[1] Appendix I.

vines pendent with purple clusters which no hand plucked, no lips relished. The trout floated securely in the pure current; no treacherous hook was yet cast by cunning hand to draw him from his native element. Now change the outlook. We stand on the spot where Samuel Beebe, Esq. now resides. Look up that beautiful valley of the Scantic for two miles, the mountains rising gracefully on the south, less regularly on the north. No sign of human life is there. The deer feeds undisturbed in those openings; the squirrel sports without dread of the hunter in those extended forests; up past Stacy's on the right, up past the Cones' on the left, the embosomed side-valleys glory in the wild luxuriance of nature. Where are now a thriving village, busy machinery, rich farms, luxurious homes, was wilderness, the "forest primeval." Such was the South Parish at the commencement of this period.

In the spring of 1741, Stephen Stebbins, my great-grandfather, came out through the woods from Longmeadow and settled on the north bank of the Scantic, where Mr. Orville Pease now resides. The house which he built was removed more than half a century ago, and is now used for a barn and shed on the place of the late Col. John McCray, and the boards on the north side of that building are the same — so runs the tradition — as those which were put on by him one hundred and twenty-two years ago. Aaron Stebbins, his brother, built a few rods north, where Rev. Mr. Rockwood now lives; both these were brothers of Samuel,

who settled some years before on the mountain, east of Mr. Cross's. Lewis Langdon settled on the corner, between them, and built the first saw-mill in town, in 1750. Abner Chapin, from Chicopee, took the first lot south of the Scantic, where his thrifty grandsons, Ralph Sumner, and Silas, Chapin, now reside. Capt. Paul Langdon, who brought the first four-wheeled wagon into the place, in which he moved his worldly goods and family, first from Salem, then from Hopkinton, then from Union, settled near the Potash Hill, on the farm which his great-grandson, John Wilson Langdon, now cultivates. On the east side of the mountain was William King, a large land-owner, whose house was directly in front of the Congregational church. William Stacy, from Salem, settled where Gilbert Stacy now resides; Moses Stebbins, a fourth brother, where Mrs. Beriah Smith resides; Comfort Chaffee, who came from Wales, settled between them, where Lothrop Chaffee, his great-grandson, resides. In the east, on the Scantic, were Henry Badger, from Union; Isaac Morris, from Woodstock, grandfather of our President on his father's side; and Benjamin Skinner. Jabez Hendrick settled near where his grandson, Hiram, has literally made the stones bread; Daniel Carpenter, on the present Carpenter farm; Ezekiel Russel, on Albert Beebe's farm, and Rowland Crocker, a little above. In the north part of the town, Jonathan Ely settled on the mountain, on the middle road; Caleb Stebbins located on the farm now occupied by his great-grandsons, Jason and George;

Daniel Cadwell near him; Joseph Sikes on the "Great Bay Rode;" Philip Lyon south of "Wigwam Hill," on the road leading to the south part; Benoni Atchinson on Stony Hill, and not least, though last named, Ezra, entitled "Master," Barker, near Atchinson, — a goodly goodly company.

The distance of the Precinct from Springfield Street, the regularly increasing population, the different interests of the people, and their demonstrated capacity to administer affairs, prompted the inhabitants, as early as January 16, 1749, "to chuse three men [David Mirick, Isaac Brewer and Nathaniel Warriner] a Committee to Represent the Precinct to the town of Springfield in taking some measures to get set off for a town in this fourth Precinct." The action of the town of Springfield was unfavorable to their cause; and they delayed further attempts till December 31, 1753, four years, when they again "voated to chuse a committee [Dea. Nathaniel Warriner, David Mirick and Lt. Sam[ll] Day] to apply to the town of Springfield to see if they be willing we should be set of a District." Nothing seems to have come of this petition, for I find an article — on which, however, no action seems to have been taken — inserted in the warrant for a meeting, January 1, 1760, "To chuse a Committee to apply to the town to set us of to be a District." Again, January 1, 1761, it is "voted that Deacon Nath. Warriner, Daniel Warner, William King be a Com[tee] to apply to the Town for their Consent that we be set of a District;" and, in the fol-

lowing March, 24, 1761, it is "voted that the same Com^{tee} which were Chosen to Apply to the Town to set us of a District be further Impowered to Apply to the General Court for a Confirmation of the same on the Precincts Cost and Charge."

As obstacles rise, their courage rises. Failure inspires with new resolutions. They determine to try what virtue there is in new men and more of them, the south part of the precinct coming to the rescue, and the next year January 7, 1762, it is "Voted that John Bliss, William King, Daniel Cadwell, Stephen Stebbins and James Warriner be a Com^{tee} to apply to the Town for their Consent that we be set of a District or Town." Not much progress appears to have been made in softening the hearts and subduing the wills of the Town, for in March following, 22, 1761, it is "Voted that Stephen Stebbins, James Warriner and Daniel Cadwell be a Committee to Apply to the Town and General Court, if need be, to see if they will sett of this Precinct a separate Town or District." These repeated petitions are evidently producing their effect, for once more in renewed vigor, they vote, January 3, 1763, "that Dec^{n} Nathaniel Warriner, L^{tt} Tho^{s} Mirick and Stephen Stebbins be a Com^{tee} in behalf of the Precinct to Apply to the Town of Springfield for their Consent to be Sett of a Separate Town or District, & that they be fully Impowerd to Persue our Petition to the General Court in Ord^{r} to be Sett of afores^{d}."

This committee succeeded in their endeavors. Four-

teen years after their first petition went to Springfield, delayed, defeated, but never subdued or discouraged, they at last wring, by their tireless importunity, a favorable answer to their prayer. Their petition was granted, and the Act of Incorporation was signed by Sir Francis Bernard, Governor of the Province, June 15, 1763, — one hundred years ago this day, — by which act the fourth parish in Springfield was erected into a separate town by the name of Wilbraham, and there were granted to the town all the privileges and immunities of other towns with the anomalous exception of the power of choosing a representative to the General Court; in this election, they must still unite with Springfield. The consequence was that we did not have a representative till 1773, ten years after incorporation, the two representatives assigned to the town being chosen the one from Springfield Street, and the other from West Springfield; and even then we were favored with one rather by the rivalries and jealousies of the two sides of the river than by any love of justice in either party. West Springfield was especially offended with Springfield Street, or the First Precinct, on account of the large share of town school-money which was appropriated to the support of the "Grammar School" on the east side. They therefore conferred with Longmeadow, and agreed to give them the Springfield representative if they would unite with them and sustain their municipal policy. The bait took. Longmeadow went over to the west-side-of-

the-river policy, and sustained its platform. The old town, however, was apprised of the bargain and came out to the mountains to see what could be done. John Bliss — the grandfather on his mother's side of our honored President, and in whose veins the Bliss blood is fresh and strong and swift now, at four-score years, as when he saw the morning of the nineteenth century whose titles rise steadily, in the Records, from Mr. to Esquire, and from Esquire to Colonel, and from Colonel to Honorable — had recently removed from Longmeadow to Wilbraham, and was very popular there, as he came afterwards to be here. The Springfield men said to the Wilbraham men, "Vote with us and we will give you John Bliss for representative of Wilbraham." This was too shining a prize to be rejected. Town-meeting came; and the "mountains" sent forth their hardy voters, for almost the first time, to make good the pledge and secure the honor. The West Springfield men were filled with amazement when they came to the polls to see a host of strangers, of rough exterior, in deerskin breeches and rusty hats, and asked, "Who are these?" Their fate was sealed. John Bliss's old friends in Longmeadow, as soon as they learned that he was a candidate, voted for him, and he was chosen; and as the Wilbraham men turned homeward, and the sun at his going down was making the mountains glow, they looked higher and nobler in their eyes, for their town had been honored above their neighbors that day, and they felt that they were a power in the State.

But I am running before my story. The territory of the Precinct was enlarged, in the act of incorporation, by the addition of a strip of land on the west side, from the "inner commons," half a mile wide, extending from Chicopee River to Connecticut line. In 1780, when the line of Connecticut was accurately surveyed, there fell to our portion another strip of land, called the "Oblong" or "Wales," about a mile in width at one end, and three-quarters of a mile at the other, across the whole width of the town. And finally, to render any further allusion to the territory of the town unnecessary, I will add that, in 1799, thirty-six years after the town was incorporated, that portion of the first divison of the "outward common of Springfield," which lay on the east side of Chicopee River, now called the "Elbows," then "Kingsfield or the Elbows," was added to the town. By these additions, the town was made four and a half miles wide, as far north as its western line extended. Its length, on the west side, was eight miles and one hundred and fifty-two rods; and on its eastern side its length was ten miles and one hundred and thirty rods.

But some of the early settlers had gone, and enjoyed not the ripe clusters of their hopes and labors. A few had left the precinct. Of the pioneers, David Merrick, Abel Bliss, Samuel Stebbins, and Paul Langdon, had died. There had been births to rejoice and deaths to grieve them during this period. Infancy and manhood went down to the grave, and the "grave-yard," which

they had raised many pounds to keep "decent," was becoming the sacred treasury of many of their dear ones. There had been eighty-eight deaths since the settlement, three before the incorporation of the precinct. There had been also three hundred and twenty-five births, and if we include those born in the half-mile added from the "inner commons" and in the strip called Wales, annexed to the south end of the town, there had been three hundred and sixty-six births. The population of the town at the time of incorporation, June 15, 1763, could not have varied much from four hundred and fifty or five hundred souls.[1]

III. The Third Period of our history now opens. The "Outward Commons on the east side of the Great River," the "Mountains of Springfield," the Indian "Minnechaug" or "Berryland" has become a town, with all the rights and honors of a town of the Province of Massachusetts Bay; Wilbraham is henceforth to be its name.

The first warrant for a town meeting was issued by John Worthington, Esq., of Springfield, to Stephen Stebbins, of Wilbraham, Yeoman, bearing date August 8, 1763, requiring him "to warn the Inhabitants of Said Town of Wilbraham Quallifyed by Law to Vote in Town affairs that [they] meet and Assemble together at the Meeting House in S^{d} Wilbraham on Thursday the Twenty-first Day of Aug^{t} Currant At one of the Clock

[1] Appendix J.

in the afternoon Then and there to Choose a Moderator to preside and Conduct the Said Meeting — and then to Choose all such Town Officers as may be Necessary to Manage the affairs of Said Town and Towns in this Province are by Law Oblige to Choose." "Stephen Stebbins, Yeoman, failed not" to "warn" the people, nor were the people slow to hear and obey the warning. They "assembled and met together" as required, Aug. 25, 1763, and it was "Voted that L^{t} Thom^{s} Mirick Should be Moderator for S^{d} Meeting. Voted that Ezra Barker [he who was called Master Barker] Should be Clerk for Said Town." The meeting then adjourned to one o'clock the next day to give the "Clerk" opportunity to go to Springfield to be sworn, for there was no Justice of the Peace in Wilbraham in those days. "Josiah Dwight Just^{t} Peace" certifies that Ezra Barker "took the Oath Respecting the Bills of the other Government and the Same Time the Oath of Office as a Clerk for Said Town of Wilbraham." [1] Barker hastens back to town meeting at one o'clock, when the rest of the town officers are duly chosen: "Selectmen, Treasurer, Constables, Assessors, Tithing Men, Surveyors of Highways, Fence Viewers, Dear Reaves, Sealers of Leather, Hogg Reaves, Wardens, Surveyor of Shingles, Claboards, &c., Surveyors of Wheat." There is no tradition that there had been any caucusing previously to the meeting, but there was some sly waggery among these

[1] This office he held ten years to 1773, when James Warriner was chosen in his stead, and held the office for twelve years to 1785, beyond the limit of this Period.

grandfathers of ours on town-meeting day. It is recorded by Ezra, the Clerk, that "Serg^{t} Moses Burt & W^{m} Stacy Hogg Reaves (were) not Sworn at This Time *being absent.*" Four days after, the honest clerk records that "Serg^{t} Moses Burt and W^{m} Stacy Refus^{d} taking their oath of Office, *They being chosen Hogg Reaves!*"

Three officers are named here whose duties ceased long since and of which the younger portion of this assembly require an explanation. The "Warden's" duty was to see that no trespasses were made on the common lands, by destroying the timber, and carrying off valuable property for private uses contrary to law. The "Dear Reaves" were to see that deer were not hunted and taken at unsuitable seasons of the year. The "Tithing Men" were to see that the Sunday laws were obeyed, and especially that frisky boys and girls in the galleries at the meeting-house should restrain their playfulness and dumb telegraphing to each other while the sacred services continued. The latter was a task requiring ceaseless vigilance, and often was regarded as "labor spent for naught and in vain."

The town is now organized. Money must be raised and appropriated for highways, schools, the poor, and the ministry. We may well arrange our survey of this period under the three general heads of Municipal, Ecclesiastical, and Revolutionary History.

At the second meeting, held, December 1, 1763, the first money was raised and appropriated: for the "Support of Schooling," £15; for Mr. Merrick's salary, £51,

2s.; for the support of the poor, £2, 5s; for fines, 15s; pound, £2; service of bulls, £3, 10s.; contingent charges, £1; in all, £76, 2s. The *first money* appropriated, be it known, and let it be borne in everlasting remembrance, was for the "Support of Schooling," an indication not to be mistaken of the value set by our fathers upon education. The sum is small, it is true, but they were poor, their harvests were scanty, their families large, and they were still struggling for the common comforts of life.

At the next meeting, January 3, 1764, a committee of five is chosen to divide the "Town into Districts for Schools;" and it is voted "that the said Committee Should Divide the Money Granted at this meeting for the use of Schooling in This Town and Proportion the same Equally to each District when Divided in method following, viz: one-half of said money to be Divided upon Poles and Estates and the other half to be Divided upon Children from 4 to 12 years of age." Thus in the very beginning was laid the unwise and troublesome system of school-districts, which have in many ways done much to render schools expensive and inefficient. Though these districts were laid out in 1764, I find no record of their number or boundaries till 1775, when the old districts were remodelled and ten districts were formed, and the same year the town raised about one hundred and twenty-six dollars for schools, which would give to each district only the poor pittance of twelve dollars and sixty cents for the support of a school. The

whole amount of money raised for schools to 1774, ten years from the incorporation of the town was £217, an average of a little over £21 a year, or about $70. The two "School lots," which were assigned for the support of schools in the allotment of 1684, and also the share of Mr. Clark, who left the county and gave his land for the support of schools, were sold after very much difficulty and hesitation on the part of the town and of buyers. The income from this fund was added to the sum which the town raised. But one school-house was built in town during this period. It was on the mountain near where Mrs. Green now lives, and was erected at the expense of that school-district. There were but two school-houses in the town, this and the one which stood, as early as 1754, nearly opposite the site of the present Congregational Church in the north parish. The schools were kept in the rooms of private houses, and not seldom were taught by the farmers who could read and write a little. There were three celebrated teachers, however, — Master Barker in the north part of the town, and Masters Moses and Enos Stebbins in the south part. The "lesser lights" of knowledge were few and dim. Dillworth's Spelling-Book and the Psalter, and later Webster's Spelling-Book and Third Part were the books used for reading and spelling; Hodder's and Root's Arithmetic for ciphering, when any scholar ventured upon that dark art. The master only had an arithmetic and the sums were given out to the scholar and written down; he "did" them at his leisure. No slates were

used till after this period; ink and paper, coal and board, nail and birch-bark were the mathematical apparatus. The knowledge communicated was very meagre, children rarely attending school after twelve years of age, if the limit in the division of the school money enables us to determine.[1]

Passing from schools to Highways, we find that the first roads were accepted, March 20, 1764, "upon Condition that those Persons who are benefited by said Roads or Highways would Endemnify this Town from any Charge arising on Account of said Roads or Highways." This principle was adhered to till after the Revolutionary War, perhaps through the century. The first Road "Established" was from "Third Brook so Called," near Miss Experience Stebbins's, in the south part of the town, running easterly and southerly through the southeast part of the town to "Wales" so called. A part of the way it was in the "Old Path." Paul Langdon was surveyor. The second road established was in the north part of the town, running from the "West Rode" or "Main Road," west to Stony Hill, not far from the present road. The roads varied in width from one to three rods and much care was taken to "establish" them so that they should run on dividing lines, or cross a lot at right angles when that must be done. Perhaps I may as well say here as anywhere, once for all, that the roads or paths appear to have been arranged according to a general principle or by a chance which proved to be a principle.

[1] Appendix K.

The "Bay Road," as I have said, was on the north end of the town, crossing from west to east. From this road there ran south through the whole length of the town, four paths, more or less used for foot-travellers, bridle-paths, or for wheels; — the "West Road," so called usually, on the west side of the mountain; the "Middle" or "Ridge Road," following the top of the mountain about a mile east of this in the north part of the town, descending the east side as it passes south, running over the Scantic and up the hill, south to Connecticut line; the "East Road," about a mile east from this, starting near "twelve-mile" brook and running south to the south-east corner of the town; then one mile west of the "West Road" was the road on the west side of the "outward commons," nearly corresponding to the present road. By these roads the town was divided into four parts, each a mile wide, and the west one eight and the east one ten miles long. The roads crossing east and west had a similar regular irregularity. They were five in number; — the Bay Road on the north; the next road south, nearly where the present road comes from the mountain and crosses at the Methodist meeting-house going west; the road crossing the "West Road" at Deacon John Adams's; the road going west from the school-house a mile further south, and, two miles south of this, the road through, or rather over, the mountain; for it ascended the hill from the present south parish common to Mrs. Beriah Smith's, then crossed the north end of the south moun-

tain, and, descending, crossed the "West Road" a little below Mr. Ralph S. Chapin's, bearing off westerly to Longmeadow. These roads were all laid out or "established" at different times before, and from 1763 to 1772, after the incorporation of the town. They were mere paths. Probably there was not a wrought road in town during this period. The bridge over the Scantic, near Mr. Silas Chapin's, was not built till 1768. This poor condition of the roads will appear evident from the money expended on them. The first three years no money was raised for roads, and £7, 17s. 8d. were paid as a fine for "defective highways." Up to 1773, ten years, the whole amount raised was £257, or $837.67, which is but $83.76 a year. This sum would hardly clear the paths of stones and cut away the intruding bushes. Fast horses and two hundred pound buggies would be at a discount on such roads. There was very little riding but on horseback during this period, except when there was snow. There were but two two-horse wagons, and but five two-horse sleighs in the north part of the town before 1782. A man and his wife on the pillion behind him, one child on the pommel before, and the baby in the mother's lap were the usual travellers in these paths.[1]

The Ecclesiastical Affairs of the town went on by no means smoothly. The south part of the town was increasing rapidly in population, both by births and immigrations, and was not disposed to aid in repairing the meeting-house, or building new pews in it; and not

[1] Appendix L.

seldom the controversies were sharp and long on these topics. Once, at least, as a compromise, persons were permitted to build pews at their own cost.

The method of "seating" the meeting-house was productive of more and more dissatisfaction, the doings of the "seating committee" being sometimes wholly rejected, and very often, almost always, amended.

The proverbial difficulty of managing singing, and especially singers, was felt most keenly and treated most unwisely. It is evident that the "rising generation," our grandfathers, were weary of the "leading" of good Deacon Warriner, who had now, from the "deacon's seat" under the pulpit, raised the pitch, and literally led the singing for over twenty years. The people generally felt that there was fulfilled among them the prophecy of the Prophet Amos, "The songs of the temple shall be turned into howlings." Singing masters had made their way to the new town. New music came with them. The old tunes were laid aside. Strange feats of voice and limb were performed by mouth and arm when the new singers came into the seats in the gallery. The congregation could not sing. The poor deacon's voice was silent. Great were the "searchings of heart" among the ancients. Most unfortunately of all, the town took the matter in hand. The wisdom of the fathers forsook them. The flames burned all the more fiercely for being fanned. The second article in the warrant for town-meeting, September 24, 1770, was "To see whether they will come

into some method or agreement for more Regular Carrying on the Singing in the Public worship in this town than it is at the present time;" and the third, "To see whether the Town will be willing to sing four Times in the Publick worship on the Sabbath for the future." It is pretty evident that this movement originated with the new singers. They appear to be ambitious to excel in quantity as well as quality. There seems to have been no opposition worthy of record to choosing the committee asked for, and ten men were chosen "to be a Com., to take into consideration the Broken state of this Town with regard to Singing in the Publick Assembly on Sabbath Days, and to consult together and agree upon some Plan or Method whereby to encourage & promote regular and Universal Singing in said assembly, & make report thereof to this or some future meeting." On the 22d of October, at the adjourned meeting, the committee of ten, Nathaniel Warriner, John Bliss, Thomas Mirick, Moses Stebbins, William King, Ezra Barker, Daniel Cadwell, John Jones, Eliezer Smith, and Phineas Newton make an elaborate Report covering two pages of the book of Records in Master Barker's best handwriting, in which a list of twenty-three tunes, — "called Low Dutch, Windsor, Old 100d, New 100d, Stroudwater, Meer, Buckland, Broomsgrove, Bangor, St. Martin's, Warwick, St. Hellens, All-Saints, Little Marlborough, Cambridge, Portsmouth, Southwell, Quercy, Worksop, Wantage, Standish, New York and 149 Psalm Tune,"—

is given, which "shall be made use of in the Publick worship of God in this town;" this "List is to be transmitted to Mr. Morgan (now singing-master in this Town) in order that he may Teach or Instruct his scholars to Sing them according to Rule." No other tunes are to be introduced without "consent." Dea^{n} Nath'l Warriner is to give the lead in singing on the forenoons on each Sabbath & one of the Young Men lately Instructed by Mr. Stickney (as they shall agree among themselves) give the lead in singing in the afternoon of each Sabbath for the space of three months from the Date hereof, excepting when Mr. Morgan is present, then it is expected he will carry the singing." They also report "that all who Assist in Singing Shall be at their pleasure either to Stand or Sit when Singing without giving Offence to any; that the singers lately Instructed by Mr. Stickney who are seated in the Gallery of the Meeting House are at their Liberty to make a decent and orderly Exchange of Seats as They Shall agree among themselves and so to Set for the Space of Three Months from the Date hereof and no longer, or else to continue to Set as they were last Seated;" and "6thly" and lastly, "that whoever shall lead in the singing shall be at Liberty to Use the Motion of his hand while singing for the Space of Three Months from the Date hereof or a shorter Space as need shall require." Thus far "the committee" "propose to be tryed by Vote." The committee then recommend, that "as the Beating with the hand in the Congregation

when singing is offensive to some it be laid aside as quick as may be and confine the same to the school only; that all in the Town whose voices will admit of it speedily use proper means to get themselves acquainted with the art of Singing Ruleably & well,— in the mean time" they "recommend to all both old and Young to Join in Singing in the Worshiping assembly and to sing as well as they can; and lastly," say they, "we cannot but recommend to ourselves & others to studdy the Things which make for peace, and the things whereby we may Edify one another."

The town voted what the committee recommended. But it is evident that the flames were not to be quenched by any such appliances. "Three months" grace and "no longer" is given to "Beating with the hand" and occupying "exchanged seats" if they can agree to exchange, which is very doubtful. The congregation are all to "sing, as well as they can," it is true, but to "Join in Singing" at any rate. The Stickneyites in the "Gallery" would hardly be satisfied. The compromise is like Nebuchadnezzar's image, gold in the head, but "clay and iron" in the legs and feet. So it turns out, as the "three months" are expiring, that an article is inserted in the warrant, January 7, 1771, "to pass any votes in further addition" to those before passed "as the Town Shall think proper by further lengthening the Time of the Present Mode of Singing." This article came from the "Gallery" party evidently. It is followed by another which came from the "dea-

con's seat," as evidently. Hear it: "to make Inquiry into the conduct of *those who call themselves the singers in this Town*, and see wheather they have conducted or proceeded agreeable to the report of the Town's Com^{tee}, and the Town's vote thereupon at our last Meeting and pass such Vote or Votes as shall be thought Necessary in Consequence thereof." Greek has now met Greek. At the meeting it is voted, "that Dea^{n} Nath'l Warriner Shall continue to Set the Psalm as Usual During the Town's Pleasure; also that Moses Warriner and Jonathan Bliss do the same." The "young men" are voted down; the "Galleries" are in a minority; so it would seem. But there is abundant life in young blood, and, rallying their strength, "a motion was made whether the singing should be performed in the congregation according to the late mode by Beating with the hand, &c.; it being put, and the House being Divided it passed in the affirmative, 25 against about 19." The "Deacon's Seat" now loses, but does not yield; for "a motion was made" to Deside it by the Town List or by Lawful Voters, and after some Debate it was thrown by and the following vote passed, namely, Voted that the Rev. Mr. Mirick be Desired to call a Society meeting in order to come into some method of Reconciliation with regard to Singing in the Publick worship." They adjourn; and no more is recorded or known of the result. Poor Mr. Merrick had cares enough of another kind, as we shall soon see, without being dragged into this controversy about the singing. Thus ended

the great struggle of the town respecting the method of "Carrying on the Singing in the Public Worship of God." I have dwelt upon it at greater length than the subject itself deserved, because it is a good illustration of the attempts of our ancestors to regulate minute affairs by town action. Let us learn wisdom from their mistakes.

Another and much graver difficulty called for all the wisdom and patience of the town. The conditions of the "Worthy Mr. Mirick's" settlement were of such a kind as to render it more and more difficult to fulfil them. Every year a Committee conferred with him and agreed upon the price of commodities: and then there was the use of the "Ministry land" whose income he was to have, and whose leasing and renting and care were a great annoyance. More than all, I think Mr. Merrick was as good a farmer as preacher, and that his thrift on the "Overplus Land," given to him as a settlement, was not a small occasion of delay and dislike in paying his salary. A good farm is a dangerous thing for a minister to own among farmers. His thrift is all open to view and begets envy. Mr. Merrick had a family of promising boys now entering upon manhood, some already arrived at it, and two negroes to aid in the field and one in the house, giving him an appearance of abundance and increasing riches. The town were not disposed to aid any more than they could help in "multiplying his prosperity."

As early as Jan. 7, 1771, a movement is made to give

up the attempt to settle the salary on the prices of "Sundry Species of Commoditys," and the sum of "Fifty one Pounds Ten Shillings, lawfull Money of this Province" is voted by the town and accepted by Mr. Merrick instead, and papers were exchanged between the parties, January 6, 1772. It is also agreed that the "Ministry Land" shall be sold, on condition that £6 be added annually to Mr. Merrick's salary, and the sale is made and bonds are given amounting to £348, 13s. 5d. or $1162.20, the interest on which is to be paid annually for the support of preaching.

Mr. Merrick's health failed in 1772, and difficulties, in addition to all the others, of a serious nature arose about supplying the pulpit and paying his salary while he was sick. Matters came to a crisis, July 14, 1775, and the town not only refused to raise Mr. Merrick's salary, but, after hearing read a very frank statement made by him of his sickness and offering to relinquish five Pounds out of his salary for the current year in case the town should "Employ Some Learned Licenced Preacher for three months next ensuing," and in the "same proportion" for "every three months thereafter in case" he "should not be able to supply the pulpit before the Expiration of Said Term," and provided also that he "should be paid the remaining part" of his "salary according to" their "agreement," yet after a "Long Debate a motion was made and Seconded to Dismiss Mr. Mirick; then voted to Dismiss Mr. Mirick from the Gospel Ministry upon his being willing; then voted to

adjourn to the 4th day of September next. At that meeting "Mr. Mirick's answer was read" again "and not excepted by the town." The committee of conferance is enlarged and are directed to "Wait on Mr. Mirick again and see if their Grievance could not be removed." They "weighted on Mr. Merrick with two votes passed" and received the following answer: —

"To the Inhabitants of Wilbraham in Town Meeting assembled, Friends and Neighbours: Considering my bodily Infirmity and Difficulty of Supplying the Pulpit Steadily for the present, I hereby engage (provided you accept of it) to relinquish out of my annual salary Eight Shillings per Day for as many Sabbaths as you shall be obliged to hier a preacher on account of my failing through inability. S^{d} Engagement to continue one year from date hereof & no longer — if my Life should be continued so Long.

"Yours, N. Merrick.

"Wilbraham, September 4, 1775."

This answer was read in "a very full Town meeting & not Excepted." They vote "to chuse another committee to draw up a List of Grievances and Lay them before Mr. Mirick & agree with him to Call in Sister Churches; then after a Long Debate," says the town clerk, "there was no Committee chose." The old committee was directed "to wait on the Rev^{d} Mr. Mirick to Know if he will ask for and Receive an Honorable Dis-

mission from the work of the Ministry in this town and unite with the town in Calling a Council for that purpose — further voted as the opinion of this town that a Minister has no Right to any Salery or maintenance as a Minister any Longer than he performs the work of a Minister." The clerk adds, "N. B. the above votes past by a very grate majority then the meeting disolved."

These votes do not read well after a century. The spirit is harsh when we remember that Mr. Merrick was sick and has shared with them the days of small things. It is evident, however, that the mind of the town is not only made up, but also made up very unanimously and decidedly. The subject of Mr. Merrick's "sallary" came up again at the next town-meeting, November 6, 1775, and we read that "the Rev[d] Noah Mirick's Salery was put up two or three times to be Granted from Jan. 1, 1775 to January 1, 1776, but no vote could be obtained," though he sent to the town-meeting a letter in which he proposes to relinquish out of his salary "four pounds," because the town "had hired some Sabbaths preaching in the preceding Summer by reason of" his "failing through bodily Infirmities" which is the "proportion agreed upon," if they would pay him the remainder of his "salary according to Engagement." The subject came up again, November 20th, but "no vote could be obtained to grant the Rev[d] Noah Mirick's Salery." Opportunity for consideration and consultation only fixes more deeply the purpose of refusal. At a meeting, held February 23, 1776, whose business was exclusively that

of endeavoring to adjust this difficulty, a committee of seven, "Lieut. John Hitchcock, John Bliss, Esq., Moses Stebbins, Ser^{t} Daniel Cadwell, Cap^{t} James Warriner, Ser^{t} Philip Lyon & Cap^{t} Paul Langdon," was chosen "to wait on the Rev^{d} Noah Mirick to ask for and see if he wont be willing to relinquish his Clame or Challing to any Sallary from this people for the future." There is no record of any report from this committee at the next meeting, March 19, though there was an article in the warrant to receive their report. If any was made, it was unsatisfactory, for at the next meeting, March 28, they "Voted to make Mr. Mirick an offer of a sum of money yearly during life in Case he will ask for a Dismission & join with the town to call a Council for that purpose," and then chose a new committee of five persons to "wait on the Rev^{d} Mr. Mirick." The meeting "adjourned for the space of one hour, then met and opened said meeting and Voted and Dismist the Rev^{d} Mr. Mirick from the work of the Ministry in this town." And they further chose a committee of three, Moses Stebbins, L^{t} Daniel Cadwell and Ser^{t} Noah Stebbins, "to apply to Sum orthodox Candidate to supply the pulpit in this town for one month." This is pressing the matter with earnestness, if not with either prudence or justice. Another committee is chosen in May to "hire preaching two months." Mr. Merrick grows feebler and the town grows bolder. In May, the parties show themselves more clearly than before. It is evident that there is some relenting on the part of a portion of the town,

though it appears from the record that the church had also voted to call a council. Nothing is said of this, however, in the church records, nor of this trouble. When the subject comes before the meeting, May 20, 1776, they pass over the article "to see if the town will coincide and join with the church in calling a Council to settle the unhappy Diference betwixt the Rev. Noah Mirick and town and make provision for S^d^ Council and Support the Charge," and vote to reconsider the "former vote past, March 28, 1776, viz: Voted and Dismist the Rev. Mr. Mirick from the work of the ministry in this town, which vote is Reconsidered made nul and void." [1]

The day dawns. There is yet hope of a safe and honorable deliverance. We wait, therefore, with worthy solicitude the action of the meeting, July 2d. A new committee of five persons is chosen to "wait on the Rev^d^ Mr. Merrick and ask what his demands are on the town;" and it appears that his reply was, "What the town owes me," for they put themselves right in the case by further voting all Mr. Merrick's "Sallary to the 28 Day of Last June that has not been granted heretofore." The wisdom of the fathers is returning. They choose a committee to hire preaching, for Mr. Merrick is too

[1] A Council was held, however, June 25, for, December 9, the sum of £5, 5s. 4d. is "granted to the Church Com^tee^ to pay Mr. Ellsworth for speaking at the Council," and to "Mr. Seth Adams for keeping the Council in June 25, 1776, £3, 15s.," and to Capt. James Warriner for 5 jornies for himself and horse and expense of ministers, £1, 8s. 4d." "and Nov. 3, 1777, to Gideon Burt, 17s. 6d. for keeping Mr. Ellsworth and horses for the Council in June, 1776," and this Council recommended that a Council of both town and church be called to dismiss Mr. Merrick, for I find an article in the warrant for a town-meeting to be held on the 4th of November, 1776, to that effect.

infirm to perform "the work of the ministry," and another committee "to wait on our Rev[d] pasture to make a final settlement with him and report at this or some future meeting." They adjourned to September 2d; met and adjourned to October, "and but four persons met no meeting could be opened so the meeting Concequently Disolved of it self." Mr. Merrick's health was still declining and a committee was chosen to supply the pulpit for six months, at a special meeting held in September. In November there is an article in the warrant to see if the "town will unite with the church and chuse a Council to Dismis our Rev[d] pasture agreeable to the Late result of the Rev[d] Council & Chuse a Com[ttee] for that purpos." The meeting met and adjourned to December 9, when no vote was passed respecting calling a Council, but Capt. John Shaw, Mr. Moses Stebbins, & L[t] Noah Stebbins were chosen a "Com[ttee] to wait on Mr. Mirick with a coppy of the Last Grant made him of his Sallary and see if he will accept and be content therewith and Give a Discharge from any further Clame on the Town by way of Sallary and make a Reporte at some futer meeting."

This is the last recorded action in this protracted and painful transaction.[1] The "Worthy" Mr. Merrick was rapidly sinking to his grave; going to his reward. He died, December 22, 1776, aged sixty-six years, after a

[1] The final settlement with the heirs of Mr. Merrick was not made till 1784, eight years after his death. The town then "Granted to the heirs of the Rev[d] Noah Mirick what was Due to him for his Salary & what was Due by the sale of the ministry land included the sum [of] £48, 15s. 1d. 2f."

ministry of thirty-five years and six months. He was son of James, the son of Thomas Merrick who came from Wales and settled in Springfield, 1636. He was born, August 6, 1711, and graduated at Yale College, 1731. He was a good scholar and preacher for his time. "He had a well-balanced mind, trained to close application and study. The doctrines inculcated by the text were logically treated. His style is plain rather than ornamental." "I infer," writes his grandson, "that his reading was not extensive and systematic. His Scripture quotations were appropriate, and show a thorough knowledge of the Bible, which was his best library. He did not always write out his sermons, but made sketches like lawyers' briefs, from which he preached. He was very methodical in his habits, exact in all his ways and punctual in the performance of every duty. Saturday was his preparation day for the solemn duties of the Sabbath. At an early hour he retired to his study, and no one was permitted to interrupt him. His meals were carried to his room, and he did not appear in his family till Sunday morning." He was an Arminian in his opinions, if universal tradition can be relied upon, and it is not improbable that this may have had some influence in breeding disaffection at last in the town and church. The church-book shows the usual amount of success in the ministry. One hundred and seventy-two joined the church, one hundred and three owned the covenant, and six hundred and four were baptized, and thirteen were dismissed to other churches. Cases of

discipline were very few, and never resulted in expulsion, or if so, no record is made of the fact.

Mr. Merrick's labors were not disturbed by the controversies of intrusive sectaries till near their close, when the Baptists appeared in the northeast part of the town, organized a society in 1768, and Rev. Seth Clark was settled, 1770. No serious collision appears to have arisen between the churches, however, and the harmony of the town seems not to have been disturbed. One lesson, at least, we may learn from this long struggle: there was trouble among the fathers not less than among us in their ecclesiastical affairs, and no one who reads their records attentively can sigh for the old ways and the times of the fathers.[1]

From the death of Mr. Merrick, 1776, there was no settled minister in the north part of the town till 1787, a period of eleven years. But the people in the south part of the town had so rapidly increased that, as early as 1765, they made application to the town for money to support preaching among them in the winter, which was promptly refused. At the December meeting, 1767, the town refused the "Southpart" the privilege of having "Two Months Preaching in the Winter Season *upon there own cost.*" Such a vote would not conciliate the Stebbinses and Langdons and Morrises and Chaffees. They rally in 1772, and ask to be set off as a town, but are voted down summarily. In 1778, after a struggle at several adjourned meetings, and the

[1] Appendix M.

report of a committee, they vote to divide the town into "two parishes;" but it was afterwards reconsidered. In 1780, they again urge their claim to be a parish upon both town and General Court, and press it with vigor till at last they gain their object, and are set off as a Parish, June 11, 1782. The line between the parishes from Springfield to Monson was on the south side of David Bliss's farm, those adjoining the line being permitted to choose whichever parish they pleased.[1]

Near the close of this period, January 10, 1780, Deacon Nathaniel Warriner, one of the first four settlers of the town died, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. He was called to the most important offices of trust in both precinct and town. Besides the important office which he held in the church from the very beginning, and to which he gave a "full sacramental furniture," he was moderator of many of the precinct meetings, sharing the honor with Thomas Merrick, and almost exclusively moderator of town meetings for seven years to 1770, when John Bliss of the south part appears on the stage, and succeeds for many years to the deacon's honors. Having no children, on whose shoulders the mantle of his virtues and the results of his industry and economy could descend, he gave at his decease £400 "Lawfull money" or about $1300 to the town, "to be the one-half given to the support of a Gospel Ministry, the other half to be to the use and Support of Schools in this town, Provided that all other

[1] Appendix N.

Churches which are or may be in this town of a Different Constitution from the Standing order of Churches in this Land Shall Forever be Excluded from Receiving any Benefit from the same." He is the first, and, I am sorry to say, the last benefactor of the town, who has given a sum for public purposes equalling this donation. The children in our town are to-day reminded of the worthy deacon who first and last remembered generously our public schools, by additional advantages which his testamentary act gives. Thus closes this period of the Ecclesiastical History of the town. There are now two Parishes, the North and the South, and the Baptist Society, which had erected a meeting-house in 1779. Hereafter the municipal affairs of the town will be separated from the ecclesiastical, and the course of our history will be more easily traced.

The epic of this period yet remains to be recited, — the words and deeds of our fathers during the Revolutionary War. Having so long detained you, I hardly know whether I should beg your pardon for the present challenge of your endurance in this crowded hall, and close here and now my story, or whether I should be encouraged, by patience so long-suffering, and attention so steadfast, to take my manuscript in my hand and read in your ears the heroic deeds and acts of your fathers. [The President loudly said, "Go on, Sir, go on;" and his words were caught up with great earnestness all over the platform and through the hall.] I accept your challenge of strength and endurance thank-

fully, and girding myself anew for the task, will, in words as worthy as I may, all unworthy, at the best, of the theme, rehearse the doings of the town during the war of Independence. The subject is as rich in inspiration as in instruction for us, — the children and grandchildren of these men, — in this hour of our country's trial and peril, when the continent trembles under the tread of contending armies, and the air is torn with the thunder of cannon, and the war-shout. The records are full of the proceedings of the town, — passing resolutions of sympathy with the suffering city of Boston; sending aid to the families whose members were killed or wounded at the Lexington fight; sending men into the field by the payment of large bounties; furnishing their share of beef to the commissary; giving clothing to the half-naked soldiers; *choosing committees to "take care of persons" inimical to the State;* struggling with a depreciated currency; voting one silver dollar in paying taxes to be equivalent, first to seventy-five, then to eighty, then to two hundred and fifty dollars of paper money; filling a draft of every seventh man; and leaving the crops in the field to be harvested, as well as planted, by the old men, the children, and the women. Such is a glance at the deeds I am to rehearse, and to whose recital I summon your renewed attention, and challenge your iron patience.[1]

The great cause of the Revolutionary War — taxation without representation — had stirred up a deep feeling of

[1] Appendix O.

hostility to the mother country, and the indirect manner in which the tax was levied — by a tariff on imported goods from Great Britain and the British possessions — only added fuel to the flame. They could not escape the tax, unless they ceased using the goods imported. If they made no purchases, they would pay no taxes. Accordingly an association was formed in 1769, by the merchants in Boston, whose members pledged themselves to import no more of the taxed articles, and the citizens were petitioned to cease trading with all merchants who would not pledge themselves to import no more of them from England or her dependencies. This pledge of the citizens was not only circulated in the town of Boston, but was also sent to all the towns in the colony. The appeal from the merchants reached the citizens of this town in the spring of 1770, and at a town-meeting held May 1, of which Lieut. Thomas Merrick was moderator, it was "Voted that the Marchants not only of our Metropolis but thro' the continent have acted Generous and as becoming Gentlem [en] of a Free Constitution and as well wishers of their Fellow Men in that they have Nobly Preferred the Public good to their own private Interest, and with a view to obtain a Redress of those Grievances so Justly complained of have by a Certain agreement engaged to Suspend their Importations from Great Britain, a Measure which cannot but be approved by every wise and Generous Man, and which we hope will prove Instrumental to Effect the Salutary Design in View." "Voted that

the above vote be recorded in the Town Book and a Copy thereof to be transmitted to the committee of Inspection in the Town of Boston in order to be Published."

This is the first voice from Wilbraham, five years before the battle of Lexington, and it is every way worthy of the men and the crisis. Our hearts swell with gratitude as we repeat the words. We feel taller and stronger as we remember they were the words of our ancestors.

The town clerk, the renowned Master Barker, adds to his record of the above vote, "N. B. It was moved in the Meeting to pass some Votes relating to not purchasing goods of those, who, contrary to the merchant's agreement, continue to Import, and also relating to the Horrid Murther lately committed in Boston by the Soldiers: but a rumour that the Duty acts were repealed, and being an *Infant town* [mark the modesty as well as the manliness of the fathers, for the town was not yet seven years old] in the Province, the Meeting thought Prudent not to Show themselves *too forward* in passing many votes in the affair." Their patriotism is surpassed by nothing but their modesty. They desired no quarrel with the mother country, and hoping the "rumour of repeal" was true, they passed over without action the article "to see if this town will take care Speedily to Procure and Provide a Stock of Powder and Ammunition."

No further action was taken by the town for the

next three years. The controversy was carried on mainly between the colonial Governor and the citizens of Boston, though active correspondence was kept up with other towns in the State. At at own-meeting, held April 6, 1773, Ezra Barker, Isaac Brewer, Eleazer Bliss, John Bliss, and Nath'l Warriner were chosen a committee "to take into Consideration Corresponding with the town of Boston relative to the Crown fixing Salaries upon our officers without our Consent." At an adjourned meeting, held April 20th, "at 3 o'clock, P.M.," this committee make their report in reply to the appeal of the Boston Committee, drawn up in part by Samuel Adams and Joseph Warren, and presented to the town-meeting of Boston, November 20, 1772, by James Otis, that flaming torch of the Revolutionary struggle. In what words could these simple citizens of young Wilbraham respond to the sentences of fire which came blazing from the pen of Adams, and thundering from the lips of Otis? Listen to them, — modest, manly, heroic: "We, the Inhabitants of the town of Wilbraham this 20th day of April A. D. 1773 in town-meeting Lawfully assembled by adjournment Take this opportunity to acknowledge the favour of a Pamphlet printed by order of the town of Boston at their meeting Nov. 20th, 1772, wherein the rights of the Colonists are Stated together with a List of publick Grievances or Infringements of those rights, &c., we freely acknowledge that we are a few Days later than might justly be Expected, & perhaps some will say that we are fore-

closed on account that the Honorable House of Representatives have taken the matter in hand, others may venture to Say that *Seeing Wilbraham is but an Infant town, the Inhabitants thereof are bold and Imprudent in meddling with the affair:* Since the most anticent towns in the Same Country [Mr. President, Springfield must look to her laurels] *have lain still and done nothing;* we answer that *we have a call to be* VERY BOLD *to stand for and* MAINTAIN OUR JUST RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES, *especially at this* SO CRITICAL TIME. And if we may be allowed to use Scripture Language we would have recourse to the words of Elihu and say, I am young and ye are very old, wherefore I was afraid and Dust not Show you mine opinion. I Said Days should Speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom. *But there is a Spirit in man, &c.,— Therefore* I Said Hearken to *me* I also will Show *mine opinion.* — Behold, *I waited* for words, &c. Thus far the Introduction, and after taking thankful notice of the late conduct of the honorable house of representatives we will proceed to a few resolves." In these resolves the committee say it is (1) " the Opinion of this town that the rights of the Colonists as stated in the Boston Pamphlet in general are well and Justly Stated and we have too much reason to believe that there is an attempt made to abridge us of those rights, which is Cruel and unreasonable; (2) that in faithfulness to ourselves to our posterity and as friends to the English constitution and nation as well as faithful and Loyal Subjects to our Sovereign Lord the King, we may not DARE SIT STILL *as*

Idle Spectators and DO NOTHING, Wherefore Considering ourselves a *part of the whole,* and *members of the same Body* and that our *Interests are Joint Interests* (3) we are willing & will unite and Join with our Brethren in pursuing all Proper & Lawful methods whereby we may gain redress of those Grievances So Justly Complained of and which are like to prove So hurtful to the good Subjects of the King as well as *Dishonorable to his Crown.* (4). Resolved as the opinion of this town that we are not Sensible that we or our Brethren of this Province have Done anything thus to forfeit our Just rights or to merrit the Displeasure of our Sovereign, but on the other hand we verily Believe that the People of this Province and throughout the whole British america are as *true and as Loyal Subjects as any in the King's Dominions,* at the Same time we *Cannot* omitt Saying *that it is with Pleasure* we observe *Stiddiness and firmness* of the people in their resolutions as well as *good temper* in standing for and maintaining their *Just rights* and *Priviledges* and that all mobs, routs and riots are laid aside — and Furthermore we are of opinion that if petitions for redress in a proper Channel were repeatedly and humbly presented to our King & our *earnest prayers Continually put up to the King of kings the Same accompanied with a universal reformation* this would give us reason to hope that our Priviledges wold be restored & Continued to us and that we might yet remain a happy People." Resolves every way worthy the age of heroes and sages.

After the report had been read, it was "Voted that

the above be Recorded in the Town book, & that the town clerk transmit a coppy thereof to the Committee of Correspondence in the town of Boston *as quick as may be.*" The clerk is careful to note at the bottom of his record, "A copy sent to Boston." Thus the echo went back from the "mountains" to the sea, and the hearts of the people were strengthened.

The state of affairs grew no better, and in December, the tea was thrown overboard in Boston Harbor by a party of citizens disguised as Indians, among whom was Robert Sessions, who soon afterwards settled in this town and became one of our most worthy and influential citizens. No action was taken by the town, March 15, 1774, on an article in the warrant "to see if the town will pass any votes relative to the Letters Sind [signed] by our present Governour & Lieut. Governour & some other Gentlemen Sent home and returned to Boston and Sent to Wilbraham to be Emiditately Laid before said town." These fathers of ours had no time to give to a consideration of the reasons offered by their tory "Governour and Leut. Governour," Hutchinson and Oliver, why they should surrender "their Just Rights and Priviledges;" even the Prayer of the Colonies for redress, presented to Parliament by the hand of Franklin, had been spurned from the house. Their arms were as strong as their hearts, and their muskets as true as their principles.

In June of this year, 1774, Gage filled Boston with troops, and the Common was covered with tents. A

special meeting of our citizens was called, June 23d "to see if the town will take into Consideration the Precarious State of the Liberties of North America & more Especially the Present Distressed condition of this Insulted Province & pass any vote or votes on the Letters or Covenant which are So Called sent from the town of Boston to the town of Wilbraham to be Subscribed by all adult Persons of both sexes in S^{d} town and pass all such votes on the above Said articles as the town Shall by any way or meathod think proper or Convenient."

The town-meeting was "very full." "Mr. John Bliss was chosen moderator. It was voted that Dea. Warriner Should Desire Mr. Mirick *to Come and Pray accordingly Mr. Mirick opened S^{d} meeting by prayer.*" This is the first record of a prayer being offered at a town-meeting, and eminently significant of the deep seriousness felt by the citizens, and their consciousness of the momentous interests which were at stake. After the prayer, they take up the business before them with a mixture of dependence and independence on foreign direction as well as with patriotic devotion.

"After several Letters or Covenants sent from the town of Boston to the town of Wilbraham were read, it was further voted after Largely Discoursed upon that *Some words Should be Dashed out* in the first article in the Covenant and *some be aded*, voted that the Last article in the Covenant should be *all Dasht out*, & voted there Should be *words aded* under the Last article in the Cove-

nant; voted and chose Dec^{n} Warriner Lieut. Thomas Mirick & James Warriner a Com^{te} to make Enquiry to See *what other towns Do* before they send S^{d} Covenant to the town of boston & voted that S^{d} Com^{te} Should not Send Said Covenant without further orders from S^{d} town. This covenant says, "there being no alternative between the horrors of Slavery or the Carnage and desolation of a Civil war but a Suspension of all Commercial intercourse with the island of Great Britain, we do solemnly Covenant and engage with each other (1) that from henceforth we will Suspend all Commercial intercourse with said island of Great Britain * * * and (2) that we will not buy, purchase or Consume or Suffer any person by for or under us to purchase or Consume in any manner whatever any goods weres or merchandize which shall arrive in America from Great Britain * * * * * and that we will break off all trade Commerce and dealings whatever with all persons who Prefering their own Private intrist to the Salvation of their now perishing Country shall still continue to Import goods from Great Britain or shall purchase of those who do Import and (3) we agree to purchase no article of merchandize of any who do not sign this covenant." Then follow the signatures of one hundred and twenty-five patriotic men, who, it is to be presumed, were heads of families.[1]

A "very full town-meeting" was held a month after, July 29, 1774, at which Messrs. Daniel Cadwell, William

[1] Appendix P.

King, Moses Stebbins, Eleazar Smith, John Sterns, John Bliss and Ezra Barker, were chosen a committee "to draw up some resolves agreeable to the house of representatives respecting the Covenant Sent from Boston." After an adjournment of the meeting "for a Short Space in order that said Commitee prepare S^{d} Resolves," the meeting is again opened and the committee, after professing loyalty "so far as" their "Liberty and the nations Good will Admit," report that "the Continuation of a trade with Great Britton under our present Situation wold be unprofitable & very Dangerous," and that "a non Importation & agreement Should be universally adopted by all the British Collonies in america but being sensable of the *Improprity of this town Prescribing measures for the whole of America* we do Cheerfully approve of the measures adopted by the Late Honorable House of Representatives * * * Proposing a Congress of the Colonies * * * whose result & advice we Shall Stand ready to adopt *as far as we can consistent with good Conscience*." While they deprecate mobs and riots as "injurious to the cause of Liberty" they recommend "the moderate peaceble & Steady persuance of Some Proper means for Redress with Dependance upon a divine Benidiction." They continue their resolves by saying, "we Do Sincerely Intend Speedily to contribute to the relief of Boston & Charlestown suffering under the rod of oppression," * * "we cannot look upon any person or persons who will *not* adopt these salitary measures as *friends of their country*." * * * "We shall not think our-

selves Oblige[d]," continue the committee, "to *Show any Special regards to them:* if they be judges in Law or attorneys at the bar *we will neglect them as much as possible,* or if ministers of the Gospel or common people *we shall think ourselves under no obligations to Special Beneficenee to them.*" And further "Resolved that for the Encouragement of the Hono[r] Gentlemen Chosen as a Committe for the Congress" the same persons be a committee to communicate these above "Resolves to them & they are hereby desired & Impowered to communicate the Same *as quick as possible;*" and "our proportion of the money for the gentlemen to the Congress" was sent with the resolve, the faithful clerk is careful to inform us.

These fathers of ours felt that higher wisdom than man's was needed in the "great crisis" and they finally "Resolved that as God in his providence is frowning upon the Inhabitants of this Land in the Civil Distresses *which we begin to feel & many others which we Can Easily fore bode,* we think it proper to Set apart one Day in three months as a Day of fasting & prayer to All Mighty God for his help in our Deliverance and in this way Look to that being for Relief by whom Kings Reign & princes decree justice, Sensable for our Encouragement that in this way God was wont to relieve people of old, & that the appointment of the particular Day be left to our Rev[d] Paster or the Select [men] of the town." They then "Voted very unanimously & Granted *twenty-five pounds to provide a town Stock of ammunition as the Law directs.*

The Provincial Government and the people were becoming more and more hostile, and in October of the same year, 1774, at "a *very full meeting* Maj. John Bliss was chosen a Deligate for a Provincial Congress to be holden at Concord on the Second Tuesday of October Instant with in Structions:" "which Said in Struction that was given him," says the clerk, "was taken out of a newspaper;" "and a Commitee of Correspondance & Inspection was Chosen consisting of Missrs. Nathaniel Warriner, Ser^{t} Daniel Cadwell, Lieu^{tt} Wm. King, Maj. John Bliss, and Elezar Smith." Though I can find no record of his having been chosen by the town, it is evident that John Bliss had been previously sent to a "county Congress" at Northampton, for I find under date, Nov. 14, that the town "Voted and Granted to Maj. John Bliss for 25 Days Servise as a Deligate in weighting upon a County Congress held *at Northampton some time in the month of September* & as a Deligate in weighting upon a Provincial Congress held at Concord on the Second Tuesday of October, 1774, at 5s per day the sum of Six pounds five Shillings."

It was important that no more money should be paid to the Provincial Government, that the sinews of oppression might shrivel. Accordingly, November 14, 1774, the constable or collector of the town was directed not to pay any more money into the hands of "Harrison Gray, Esq., treasurer of the province, but to pay it into the hands of Henry Gardner, Esq., of Stowe, who is appointed receiver general by the provincial Congress."

There were tories in town and some professedly neutral persons who needed attention, and, January 2, 1775, a committee of fifteen was chosen "to See that the Continentil and Proventil Congresses associations and resolves are Strictly attended to." At the same meeting they chose "Maj. John Bliss a Deligate for a provential Congress proposed to be held att Cambridge the first day of february next or Sooner if Cald for;" and chose a committee of seven "to Collect a Donation for the Poor of the town of Boston and See that the Same is Transported *as soon as may be.*" A body of "minute men" had already made "Extraordinary preparation" for "immediate Service," and that service was soon to be called for and promptly rendered.

General Gage, commander of the British troops in Boston, had determined to get possession of the ammunition and arms of the province which he heard were stored at Lexington and Concord. On the night of the eighteenth of April the troops stole out of Boston hoping to reach Lexington without being discovered, but the concerted signal flashed from the spire of the New North Church, and Paul Revere was instantly on his way from Charlestown to Lexington, rousing the inhabitants on the road, so that when Major Pitcairn, who led the advance of the troops, reached the Common he found the "minute men" of Lexington drawn up in arms before him. He ordered them to disperse. They stood their ground. He ordered his men to fire. That volley opened the Revolutionary War. Couriers

were despatched on the fleetest horses to arouse the people everywhere and carry the flaming torch of alarm through the country. On the 20th, we may suppose, just as the sun was passing the meridian, a rider was seen coming down the Bay Road at full speed, his horse dripping and smoking with sweat, who barely checked his pace before Samuel Glover's door, and announced the fight, calling upon the "minute men" to hasten to the rescue. He was off and out of sight on his way to Springfield in a moment. Blood had been shed! Glover mounts his horse and rides, as he never rode before, down by Jones's and Bliss's, calling on them to come on as he goes. Brewer and Merrick, and Warriner the captain of the minute men, rush in from the field. The long roll is beaten by Charles Ferry, so that the mountain answers it from Oliver Bliss's to Noah Stebbins's. Merrick mounts his horse and flies down the west road to the Hitchcocks, and the Stebbinses, the Chapins, and the Langdons, by the Scantic. Burt tells his most vigorous son to cross the mountains by Rattlesnake Peak as swift as the winds ever swept over them, and rouse the Crockers, the Cones, the Russells, the Kings, and to stay not his speed till all the men of the south valley, from the corner to Isaac Morris's, were summoned to the march; then to return without delay along the east road by the Chaffees', Hendricks', and Carpenters', and over the mountains by Rev. Noah Merrick's, home. It was done as quick and as well as said.

"Edward," said Isaac Morris to his son, your father,

Mr. President, "bring the horse." And as soon as he had slung his powder-horn over his shoulder, put his bullets into his pocket, and taken down his trusty gun from its hooks, the faithful steed was at the door. Breathing a prayer for his heroic wife, standing by in speechless submission, he was off at full speed on the track of young Burt, and passing up the same road, Comfort Chaffee and Jesse Carpenter joined him, and rode for the mountain, while Enos Stebbins and Asa Chaffee, from south of the Scantic, rushed over to William King's and together up the middle road, taking Ezekiel Russell and Rowland Crocker in company, and all joined those coming up the west road and over the mountain, at a barn then standing near the site of the present school-house on the main street.

Before the mountain ceased to glow with that day's departing sun, thirty-four men, with the blessing of their wives, and the prayers of the fathers who were too old to go into battle, were on the "great Bay Road," hastening on their way to defend and, if need be, to die for their rights. But the "red-coats" had returned to Boston in fewer numbers and more rapidly than they left it, and our "minute men" returned after ten days to the quiet and security of their own homes. Such was the "Lexington alarm." [1]

A company of forty-five men, thirty-four of whom were of this town, was at once organized under the command of Capt. Paul Langdon, as eight months' men;

[1] Appendix Q.

they were encamped in Roxbury and formed part of the army which besieged Boston.[1]

While these military movements were made, the municipal action of the people did not slacken. At a town-meeting, May 26, 1775, which was "very full, Maj. John Bliss was chosen a deligate to represent the town in a Provincial Congress proposed to be held at Watertown on the 31st day of May with the following instructions," namely, "that the provincial Congress pertition to the Governour to call a General Court that the Representative body may pertition to the king & parliament that our Gravience may be repealed, not to act under the new Council appointed by the King, but act under the old Council & to see whether the King wold not herken to a pertition from a representative body that our greavience may be strictly attended to & herd by the king & parliment an be Repealed."

Little did these honest farmers of Wilbraham know of the heart of a king, especially of that of King George III, "by the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales," but not, thank Heaven, much longer to be king of these colonies. As well might these ancestors of ours have attempted to soften the rocks of their mountains with their "humble pertitions" as his heart; as well might they have attempted to turn the Scantic back to the hills as to turn his purpose. Our fathers were in earnest, however, and voted that "Each of the Resolves of the Continental & Provintial Congress

[1] Appendix R.

should be Strictly attended to by the town," and two persons were chosen in "addition to the former committee of Correspondence."

It is evident that a very close watch was kept upon those who were suspected of faithlessness in heart or weakness in knee, for, at a town-meeting, September 2, 1776, an unsuccessful attempt was made, after a "Large debate," to remove "L^{t} Wm. King and Mr. Enos Stebbins" from the committee "of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety & in the rome and Sted thereof Chuse two other members for S^{d} Com^{tte}." The Article to see if the town "will immediately furnish themselves with a town stock of ammunishon & fire arms if it can be procured" was also "past over & not acted upon."

In the autumn of 1776, there was fear of an invasion from Canada, and the town furnished thirty-two men, under the command of Capt. Daniel Cadwell who rendered service "at Ticonderoga from December 5, 1776 to April 2, 1777." The town, as well as the whole State, was startled, September, 1777, by what was called the "Bennington Alarm," and a company of fifty-two men, under the command of Capt. James Shaw, left town, September 24, for the seat of danger. They were present on the opposite side of the river at the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga. As there was no call for further service, they returned and were discharged, October 18, after a campaign of only thirty-two days. The next November the town voted to pay the soldiers marched on the alarm towards Bennington, £11.[1]

[1] Appendix S.

It was found very difficult, after the first gush of patriotism was spent, to obtain men for the war, especially for any long period of service, and £12 bounty was offered for volunteers, March 18, 1777, to fill up the town's quota of "every seventh man."

From organizing the militia, and furnishing soldiers for the army, the town turns to framing a constitution; and instructions were given, May 23, "to [Maj. John] Bliss and [Capt. John] Shaw," representatives from the town, to form "Such a Constitution of Government as other Representatives of this State in one body with the Council Shall Judge best Calculated to promote the happiness of this State," which body they are directed to join; but they are "to take head in all their Doings and be *Strictly careful in forming Said Constitution that the* JUST RIGHTS, LEBERTIES & PRIVILEDGES OF THE PEOPLE *in General be well guarded & Secured* against all unjust Incroachments whatever * * * that in all their proceedings they have Special recorse (as an assistance) to a Little book or Pamplet Intitled 'THE PEOPLE THE BEST GOVERNORS, *or a Plan of Government*, &c.,'" and finally, that "they use their influence and endeavors that such acts or Laws as *have ben already anacted* and are like to prove hurtful to this or any State *be amended or repealed*." Jealousy of power in the hands of government is shown most distinctly in these instructions, and will be found deeply ingrained into the very heart of our fathers all through their history.

At this time, the trouble with the depreciating paper

currency begins to make its appearance. Silver coin, in which taxes must be paid, could not be obtained except at a high premium, and it was very difficult, almost impossible, for the people to pay their taxes. Instructions are therefore given by the town, November 21, 1777, to Col. John Bliss and Capt. John Shaw, representatives, "to use their influence to repeal the act made for Calling in the States money."

The sufferings of the soldiers in the field and of their families at home were becoming so severe as to call for the action of the town, and at a meeting, held January 5, 1778, five men were chosen a committee "to Collect Donations for the Continential Soldiers belonging to this town. And L^{t} John Hitchcock, Lewis Langdon and L^{t} Ebenezer Russel were chosen a committee *to take care of those families that their husbands are gone into the war* for the term of three years or During the war." Bounties, and gratuities, sir, to suffering soldiers in the field, and destitute wives and children at home, were the custom and glory of our fathers, and I cannot, I will not attempt to, repress my indignation which burns along the nerves of my whole frame, at the miserable miscreant and miser, who now, in this day of our country's peril, sneers at the calls repeatedly made in aid of our gallant soldiers in the field and of their worthy families at home; impudently asserting, in his criminal ignorance, that our revolutionary heroes were not made of such penurious stuff, when his own mother or grandmother was fed by the hand of charity, and his father or grand-

father welcomed with tearful eyes and bursting heart the shoes and stockings, sent him by his considerate friends at home, to protect and warm his bleeding, naked feet. It is hardly Christian to have patience with such shrivelled souls. Let them receive the contempt of every noble-hearted man and woman; and let their names become a hissing and a by-word wherever heroism is admired and generosity honored. I will not beg pardon for this outburst of indignation. I must speak. The blood of the dead, the sighs of the living, compelled me. If there is a craven or a traitor here, let him speak, for him only have I offended.

The constitution or frame of government which had been framed for the State during the past year was submitted to the people for acceptance, and this town, March 26, 1778, voted against it, "24 votes in favor and 51 against." There is no record of its objectionable features. A call was made upon the town for its quota of seven men to join General Washington's army at Fishkill, New York, and a bounty of £60 was offered, May 11, 1778, to those who should volunteer; and if none volunteered, the same sum was to be given to the seven men who might be drafted. Two days after, at another town-meeting, clothing was voted to the soldiers "equal to one-seventh part of the male Inhabitants, agreeable to a late act of the General Court." And I find an article, in a warrant for a town-meeting to be held in August, "to see if the town will make Choise of Some person or persons to procure *Shirts*,

Shoes and Stockings for the Continential Soldiers agreeable to a Late act of the general court of this State." There is no record of choosing such a committee. The town-clerk was absent and a clerk *pro tem.* officiated. It is probable he did not make full returns, for I find that money is appropriated at the November meeting "to pay for cloathing procured for the Continential Souldiers, £101, and for *one pair of shoes* omitted for a Continential Soldier, £2, 2s." [1]

The difficulty of raising men increased as the war went on. Paper money was rapidly depreciating, and the volunteer could not rely, for a month, upon the nominal value of his pay. The town endeavored to obviate this difficulty by offering grain, at a fixed price, instead of paper money, to all who would "Inlist." It was voted, June 22, 1779, "that Each man who would Inlist into the Continental army for the Term of nine month and Join the Continental Army for that Term for Each months Service they shall have Forty Shillings Pr. month, wheat at 6s. Pr. Bushel, Rie at 4 Shillings Pr. bushel, Corn at 3 shillings Pr. Bushel, oats at 1s 6d Pr. Bushel, wool at 2 shillings Pr. Pound, flax at 10d. Pr. Pound in addition to their Continental Pay & State Bounty." A committee is chosen "to Procure the above articles," and to draw on the treasury for money. After an adjournment of half an hour, apparently for free consultation, wheat is put at "4s. Pr. Bushel, Rie at 3 shillings Pr. Bushel and Indian Corn at 2 shillings

[1] Appendix T.

Pr. Bushel." The meeting adjourned for half an hour, then for six days, when it is voted, June 28, that, if men do not volunteer, the men who are drafted shall have the same bounties; and, also, to quicken action, it is "voted that this Town will advance 200 dollars advance pay to be Reducted out of their forty Shillings a month according as the above S^{d} Committee Shall adjudge Right and Equitable Between the Town and Said Soldiers."

Agreeable to the advice of the delegates, who met at Concord, another convention is called to form a new constitution for the State, to meet at Cambridge, and Capt. Phineas Stebbins was chosen "Deligate," August 16, and the following carefully prepared instructions were given him, — which show most signally that our fathers were scrupulously, if not wisely, jealous of the personal rights of the people and of the power of the government, — namely, (1) "As to the Choice of Govenor Lieut. Govenor & Counsil that they be Chosen Annually by the People; (2) That all Civil officers be Chosen Annually by the People; (3) That no Town in this State be allowed to send more than two Representatives in one year to the General Court; (4) that no Civil officer be a Legislative Officer at the same time; (5) that all the above officers Shall be Professors of the Protestant Religion." Thus instructed, their "Deligate" joined his associates at Cambridge on the first Wednesday of September.

The prices of commodities had become so irregular

and uncertain that an invitation was sent out from a "Committee who set at South Hadly, Signed E. Porter," to the towns "to choose delegates to meet in convention at Northampton to adopt a scale of prices which shall be uniform and permanent." "Lieut. John Hitchcock and Doctor Sam'l F. Merrick" were chosen delegates. In September, a committee of eight is chosen to take their report into consideration, and to report "to the Town what they think the Prices of the Several Articles (therein set Down) ought to be." I find no report of this committee. It was found, probably, that the subject was too complex to admit of the application of any specific rules.

The enemies of their country grow bolder as the burdens of the war increase, and renewed vigilance is demanded of the friends of freedom. A committee of seven was chosen in September "TO TAKE CARE OF PERSONS IN THIS TOWN SUSPECTED TO BE ENEMICAL TO THE AMERICAN STATES," and they are "directed to demean themselves according to the Present Laws of this State."

The difficulties which hindered the raising of men continued to accumulate. The demand was imperative, the work well-nigh impossible. A desperate rally was made in October, and £400 were raised for the soldier's bounty and mileage money, and subscriptions were opened that the money might be promptly obtained, the sums subscribed to be deducted from the taxes of the persons subscribing. Forty-three names

are recorded as subscribers. Lieut. John Hitchcock subscribed the largest sum, fifty-five dollars. In November, the town voted £2,860 (the sum shows how paper money had depreciated) to the soldiers gone for nine months.[1]

The convention, which assembled at Cambridge to frame a constitution, finished their work in the winter and sent it out to the people for ratification. This town at their meeting, April 28, 1780, chose a committee of nine members "to take into Consideration the frame of Government agreed upon by the Deligates of the People of the state of Massachusetts Bay and make a report to the town-meeting in May next." This act is most characteristic of the early citizens of Wilbraham, and clearly indicates their desire to have their wise men examine deliberately the form of government they were asked to accept and adopt. The committee did their duty thoroughly, and, at the meeting, May 29, no less than ten amendments were proposed by the town, all of them limiting the powers of the government, shortening the terms of offices, and extending and securing power in the hands of the people. As amended, the constitution received forty votes; and there were thirteen votes given for it "as it stood in the book." The constitution was adopted by the State, and the first town-meeting was held under it September 4, 1780, when John Hancock received sixty-nine votes and James Bowdoin ten votes for governor;

[1] Appendix U.

and James Warren nineteen votes, "Thomas Quishin" [Cushing] sixteen votes, Samuel Adams twelve votes, John Adams eleven votes, and James Bowdoin eleven votes, for lieutenant governor. The uncertainty of political popularity is signally proclaimed by the fact that a few years after John Hancock received but *one* vote for governor.

The war is drawing to a close. Washington succeeded in shutting Lord Cornwallis up in Yorktown, and the whole British army, under his command, surrendered October 19, 1781. But the heart of the king was not softened, and men and money, and beef and blankets, and shoes and stockings, were yet needed and demanded. The town granted, October 13, 1781, £8,000 to procure 8,310 cwt. of beef, and in November they granted £2,000 more to finish the purchase, directing their committee "to give no more than one hundred & twenty pound pr. hundred for S^{d} beef." In the same month, November 23, 1781, the town "voted that the Committee pay out all the money Granted for the nine months Soldiers at 80 Dollars pr. bushel for wheat, 50 dollars pr. bushel for rie, 33 Dollars and two shillings pr. bushel for Indian corn, that is not paid out." In answer to the call for fifteen men for three years, or during the war, it was voted that "150 silver dollars or paper at the exchange" be paid to each man who enlists. It is evident enough from these prices that patriotism was no more fervent and self-sacrificing in those days than it is in ours. More beef is demanded, and

£480 "new Corency" is voted "to procure 15,957 cwt of beef." The difficulty of obtaining silver with which to pay the State tax had so increased that the wisest could not tell how to procure the money, and the boldest were ready to repudiate the tax. A committee was chosen, February 26, 1782, to petition the General Court about the "Silver rate and all other grievances." They presented their petition to an adjourned meeting ten days after. It was "Sagely Debated," but as the meeting was small, no vote was taken at that time, but at the next meeting it was voted to send the petition; then the vote was reconsidered, and after debating the subject at five adjourned meetings, continued into April, the meeting was dissolved. These particulars indicate the strong feeling which was growing up in the town respecting the deranged condition of the State and national finances.

Soldiers could not be raised in the usual way, and the town was divided into classes, and a soldier assigned to each class. I understand by this, that fifteen districts were made of the town, according to population or wealth, and that each one of these districts must furnish a man, either of their own number or from some other place, or pay the fine imposed for noncompliance, which at this time was about £45. As the town could not pay the money in hand which they had agreed to give the soldiers on entering the service, they gave a note for the principal, and paid the interest. The town is also required to furnish 6,585 cwt.

more beef, and £132 are granted, July 25, to purchase it. A new requisition of men is made, and it is voted to give the soldiers who were to serve for three months "50s. per month and they draw their own wages [i.e. of the State or nation] or £4 per month and the town draw their wages," and also voted to pay "each soldier 40s. before he march." The men could not be obtained; and a week after, the town granted 20s. in addition to the £4 per month, and voted that "each soldier be paid £3 before he marches," and to pay the whole £180. In November, £60 more are granted to purchase the balance of the beef of the old requisition, and £140 to purchase what a new requisition required; and in paying rates it is voted that "one Silver Dollar Should answer 75 Dollars" [in paper money.]

It becomes more and more difficult to raise money; and the town in their perplexity and distress went so far, May 12, 1783, after the treaty of peace had been signed, as to vote to "Instruct their Representative not to grant Congress the impost Requested by them for the express purpose of raising a revenue Independent of the States nor *to supply Congress any way untill the half pay* to the officers of the army in the Communication thereof be settled and entirely given up." The war closed, but not the financial difficulties. Paper money sank in value rapidly, — sank to worthlessness very soon. It would not pay debts, nor buy bread![1]

Creditors began to press their helpless debtors. Sil-

[1] Appendix V.

ver, the only legal tender, could not be had. The unprincipled took advantage of the times and forced the payment of debts, securing liens on real estate worth immensely more than the amount of the real indebtedness. The courts were thronged. It is said that twelve hundred suits were presented at one term of the court at Northampton. There was no peace, though peace was proclaimed. Men who had poured out their blood, either from their own veins or from those of their sons, were now to be deprived of the farms they had cleared, the houses they had built. The blessings of liberty and prosperity, for which they had fought, seemed to be escaping their grasp. Their own friends seemed to have become foes. The people were enraged, and their rage was fanned into a consuming flame by deluded and designing demagogues, and especially by one Samuel Ely, a discarded minister, who had preached for a time in Somers. As early as 1781, there was an article inserted in the warrant for April meeting to see if the town "would send a member or members to the County Convention to be held at Hatfield as Requested" [It will be remembered that the three counties on Connecticut River made but one county at this time]; but no action was taken. February 22, 1782, "Deacon John Hitchcock, Dr. John Sterns, and Abner Chapin were chosen Delicates to set in a county convention, to be holden in Hatfield on the first Tuesday in April next." The same month, a mob led by Ely disturbed the holding of the court at

Northampton. He was arrested and imprisoned at Springfield, but was released by a mob. Suits became more and more vexatious, and money more and more worthless. In October, 1783, another delegate was chosen — Dr. John Stearns — "to set in a County Convention to be holden in Hatfield at the Dwelling house of Colonel Seth Murry." The tumult increased in different parts of the State, and arms were not seldom resorted to by the mob. In April 25, 1786, Capt. Phineas Stebbins and Mr. David Burt were chosen delegates to sit in a county convention at Hatfield; and in August of the same year, "Lt. Noah Stebbins is chosen to Represent the town" in another convention to be held at the same place; and in the ensuing November, Elijah Parsons is chosen to represent the town in a convention to be held in Hadley the next day. So the flames raged. Soon after this time, Luke Day, of West Springfield, had organized his forces, on the west of the river, and Daniel Shays was coming on, with what forces he could muster, from the east. It was the purpose of these men to take the arsenal, on the hill at Springfield, and seize the arms. Gen. Shepard had assembled about 1,000 loyal men at Springfield to defend the arsenal, and Gen. Lincoln was pressing on with his army from Worcester. It was important that Shays, and Day, who had 1,900 men, should attack Gen. Shepard before Gen. Lincoln could reinforce him. On the 24th of January, Shays reached Wilbraham and spent the night, with his soldiers quartered on the inhabit-

ants. That day he had sent a messenger with a letter to Day to be ready for the fight the next day; but the messenger, on his way back, pinched with the cold, went into a tavern in Springfield to warm himself, and some young men present, suspecting all was not right, so plied him with friendly draughts that they soon put him into a drunken sleep and got from his pocket Day's letter to Shays, saying that he could not fight till the 26th. Of this, Shays knew nothing. But worse was to befall him. The men of Wilbraham were not idle. "Asaph King, at that time deputy sheriff, Col. Abel King, Dr. Samuel F. Merrick, and Dea. Noah Warriner met to devise a way of conveying to Gen. Shepard intelligence of the proximity of the force. It was at last decided that the job belonged to the sheriff. On the morning of the 25th, Shays moved toward Springfield, "on the Bay Road;" when King mounted a splendid young horse, that stood saddled in his barn, and started him across the fields to the "stony hill road." The snow, knee-deep to his horse, was covered with a crust, and he was obliged, in some instances, not only to make a path for his horse, but to pull down or leap fences. When he came out upon the road, the legs of his horse were streaming with blood. He was far ahead of Shays, and, spurring on, reached the arsenal in forty-five minutes from the time he left Wilbraham." Shepard now learned all the particulars of the number and proximity of the force of Shays, which were important to him, and prepared to meet him. The marching was

bad, and Shays did not make his appearance on the road till about four o'clock in the afternoon. After some parleying, and some boasting on the part of Shays, his column moved on toward the loaded cannon of Shepard, who had threatened to fire if he did not halt. The insurgents passed on, not believing that Shepard would dare to fire. It was no time for dallying; yet Shepard, to show all possible forbearance, fired first to the right, then to the left, then over the heads of the column. But still they came on, the harmless roar of the cannon frightening the village more than the insurgents. They are within fifty rods of the battery, and pressing on. It was now time to fire in earnest. The cannon are trained on the centre of the column; the match is whisked in the air; the column comes on; the priming is touched; the smoke belches forth, and the shot fly. Soon the smoke lifts. The column is broken and flying, crying, "MURDER!" Three men lie dead, and four are mortally wounded. Shays could not rally his men, and they fled with the utmost precipitation till the scattered column, the disorganized mob, reached Ludlow, where they spent the night. I am not aware that any Wilbraham men joined Shays; but John Langdon, the hero of two wars, then over sixty years of age, who was in Shepard's army, used to take keen delight in narrating how, with his old "Queen's Arm" at his eye, he frightened a whole squad of Shays-men to throw down their arms and surrender.

The insurrection was soon after this wholly put down. The insurgents dispersed to their homes, and an amnesty almost general was declared. By special legislation the pecuniary affairs of the State were adjusted so as to relieve to a great extent the sufferings of the people, and soon prosperity filled the purses and garners of the town. The popularity of Shays was very great, however, among some people, and, as late as forty years after the rebellion, "Hurrah for Shays!" was as common an exclamation, in the mouths of many persons, as "Hurrah for Jackson!" was, twenty years later.

The great struggle for independence is over; the rebellion, consequent on a state of universal bankruptcy, is put down; the constitution of the State is adopted; the ordinary channels of business are opening to the enterprising; prosperity, peace, and happiness succeed the poverty, tumult, and anxiety of war.[1]

IV. The Fourth Period of our History now opens. I have run a little over the time of the Third Period that I might connect the rebellion of Shays with its causes.

Though the constitution of the State was adopted 1780, no representative to the General Court was chosen by the town till 1786, when Capt. Phineas Stebbins was elected for that and for three successive years. This neglect was, undoubtedly, owing to the fact that the towns were required to pay the expenses of their own

[1] Appendix W.

representatives. If the town sent no representative, they had none to pay; and the town was so poor, at the close of the war of independence, that it was no small object to save the pay of a representative. It is doubtful whether they would have sent when they did, had they not been fined £47. 18s. 4d. for not sending in 1781, '82, which fine they petitioned, most humbly, in 1783, to have abated. Very stringent instructions were given Capt. Stebbins when first chosen, relating to the appropriation of money. In 1787, the newly formed constitution of the United States was offered to the several States for their acceptance or rejection, and Capt. Phineas Stebbins was chosen a delegate to sit in the convention to be holden in Boston for the purpose of examining, and adopting or rejecting, this constitution. The people of this town were always jealous of bestowing power upon their rulers; and it was thought that the constitution took too much power from the State and gave it to the nation. This fear controlled Capt. Stebbins's vote, which he cast in the negative. The constitution was, however, accepted by the State, but not without prolonged debate and proposed amendments.

The political history of the town from this time has been marked by no extraordinary action. None was demanded. The war of 1812–15 called forth no municipal measures worthy of mention. Governor Strong called for seven men, who were furnished, went to

Dorchester and staid seven months, and then were discharged.[1]

In 1820, Abel Bliss Esq. and Luther Stebbins were chosen delegates to a convention called to amend the constitution of the State. When the town were called upon, the next year, to vote upon the acceptance or rejection of the amended articles, only two out of the fourteen were accepted. The same jealousy of conferring power upon government prevailed then as thirty years before.

In 1824, an attempt was made by the town to obtain possession of the "Minister Money," especially that portion of it realized by the sale of the "Ministry Lot." It was unsuccessful, as it should have been, and the fund remains in the possession of the two parishes to this day.

There was some little friction between the north and south parts of the town, and January 19, 1824, there was a vote upon an article "to see if the town will petition the General Court, at their next session, to divide the town of Wilbraham into two towns." The proposition was rejected by 114 nays to 67 yeas. But the subject would not rest, and was again agitated with no little interest and some asperity but a few years ago, and brought before the Legislature. Calvin Stebbins gave much time and labor in opposition to the measure and, I suppose, it was owing in no small degree to his influence that it was not carried.

[1] Appendix X.

When the call was made upon the town for troops to put down the present infamous rebellion, the response was prompt and patriotic as when James Warriner's men started for Lexington almost one hundred years before. One hundred and forty-two of the sons of the town rushed to the rescue. At Fair Oaks, at Malvern Hill, at Newbern, they have been in the thickest storm and thunder of battle, and have shown that the noble blood of the fathers is not thin. Wounded on the fields, pining in Richmond prison, dying in the hospitals, they have honored their ancestors, the town, and humanity, and they will do so till this rebellion is crushed and peace is triumphant.

The ecclesiastical affairs of the town opened not very favorably, at the commencement of this period. The South Parish was no longer tempted, by their distance and individual interests, to interfere with the society in the north part of the town, but the disastrous condition of the finances of the country affected every parish and home. It was very difficult to agree upon salaries for a minister, even when an agreement upon a minister had been obtained. The freedom of thought on all subjects, religious as well as political, which had been introduced by the Revolutionary War, now drawing to a close, had caused divisions of opinion which were promotive of strife. Denominational strife succeeded the clangor of arms. The Baptists, as I have said, came into the northeast part of the town, on the Bay Road, in what is now called the North Village, as early as

1765; organized a church in 1768; ordained the Rev. Seth Clark, 1770, and built a meeting-house, 1779, in the pine grove, near the house of Mr. John Powell. For a time, the society prospered, but was the occasion of much difficulty in the collection of taxes assessed by the parish. From 228 members, reported in 1802, the church diminished so that in 1807 it is reported to have "lost its visibility." The meeting-house remained, however, and occasional preaching was had till about 1830. The house was destroyed by fire in 1833. As the tide of this society ebbed, the waters broke out in another quarter. A society was organized in the borders of Monson and Wilbraham in 1794, and was in a prosperous condition for many years, especially under the pastorate, — from 1810 to 1836, — for twenty-six years, of the Rev. Alvin Bennett, whose genial nature, earnest devotion, and apostolic thrift, won him many friends out of his communion. Elder Bennett preached, during these twenty-six years, 4505 sermons, and attended 504 funerals. In 1817, a meeting-house was erected for the society at a cost of about two thousand dollars. The society declined after his ministry closed, and, nine years ago, 1854, the Wilbraham members erected a meeting-house in the South Parish village, where they now worship.

The Methodists also came into the town as a flame of fire at the commencement of this period. Lemuel Smith and Jason Lee kindled the flame in Abner Chapin's kitchen, then in the school-house. Menzies

Rayner opened the campaign against sin and Satan in the North Parish, in Charles Brewer's house. The fervor, the boldness, the burning enthusiasm of their sermons, prayers, and exhortations, set the whole town in a blaze. Those who turned the world upside down had indeed come hither. Those who came to scoff went away to pray. Many of the most bitterly prejudiced were carried away by the hearty zeal of these cavalry scouts of the Lord's hosts. For some cause unknown to me, a society did not at once take root in the South Parish, where the trumpet which startled the town was first blown; but in the North Parish, where the opposition was fiercest, and violence was threatened to the preachers, a church was organized, in 1791, which has grown, in spite of all opposition, and a refusal to grant an act of incorporation, till, outgrowing one meeting-house, it has built another, commanded some of the best talent in the denomination for its preachers, and if you would know the fruit of Menzies Rayner's labors, which he commenced in peril of bodily safety, look around you, — these commodious edifices, these rich cabinets and thronged lecture-rooms, that spacious boarding-house, without a rival in the State for convenience, finish, and safety, — the rich result of the wise thought and indomitable perseverance of my most respected friend, Rev. Doctor Raymond, the principal of the institution, who, from the very ashes of his hopes, caused superior beauty to rise upon our eyes, — I say in all these you see the ripe fruits of those early toils, priva-

tions, perils, sufferings. It is always so. Persecution is the best culture of truth.

As the tide rose in the North, it began to flow back to the South, Parish, and after the school-houses on the west and east sides of the mountain had been used for preaching several years, a meeting-house was built on the hill north of the common, which was finally outgrown, and a new edifice was erected a few years since, on the main street, with which a very pleasant parsonage is connected. The entrance of the Methodists into the South Parish was not in perils, and their growth has been quiet. No serious difficulties ever arose between them and the "Standing order." [1]

The more men think, the more they are likely to disagree on the doctrines, the philosophy, of religion, however fully they may agree upon its principles and precepts. Wilbraham was full of thinkers. If there was what men call heresy anywhere in the region round about, it would be sure to find a believer and an advocate here. Hence the Universalists also came into the South Parish, and organized a society in 1826, but never built a meeting-house, using instead the different schoolhouses for their religious services. After a few years, however, the society became extinct. Then came the Millerites, or "Adventists" as they are now called, and awakened great interest and not a little terror in some minds, by their "demonstrations" from the horns of Daniel's beasts, and the "time and times and half a

[1] Appendix Y.

time" of his prophecies, that the world would be burned up in April, 1843. Fortunately or unfortunately, the consuming fire did not descend nor the watching saints ascend, and the "demonstrations" failing, a large portion of the interest failed with it, and some of those who were most earnest in their advocacy, and most mathematical in proof of their doctrine, have left the care of the flock of the Great Shepherd for the raising of bullocks and the tilling of fields.

Having thus glanced at the origin and progress of other societies, whose existence, in some instances, seriously affected the peace and prosperity of the Parishes, I return to the history of these both North and South.

When the town was divided into two parishes, 1782, June 11, the Rev. Noah Merrick had been dead six years. The people in the south part of the town had become so numerous, and they were so poorly accommodated on "Wigwam Hill," that they opposed all efficient action; and the engrossing demands of the war still increased the difficulty of the settlement of a minister. The North Parish, however, at once set about the double labor of removing their meeting-house to a more central and accessible spot, and of settling a minister. After a struggle of five years, and hearing and calling, or attempting to call, five candidates, four of whom declined to accept, on grounds of salary or of doctrine, — for the society still held fast to their liberty, — Mr. Joshua Willard was "effectually called," March 29, 1787, and ordained the fourth Wednesday of May following.

The struggle about the removal and location of the meeting-house was not so brief. Meetings were held, more or less frequently, for *twelve* years, in which it was voted to move and not to move; to repair; to build; to locate on "David Warriner's land east side of the road;" "to move the meeting-house on Charles Brewer's lot;" "to set it on the south side of Joseph Saxton's lot *in the centre of the street;*" and finally "to purchase of Jonathan Merrick a piece of land on the north side of his lot, to place a meeting-house on, for £33." The house was to stand in the middle of the land purchased, side to the street, with porches at each end; and whoever would, might at their own expense put a "steeple on the north porch." The tabernacle of the Lord is moved down from "Wigwam Hill" into the street with as much joy to all beholders as David moved the ark of the Lord from the house of Obed Edom into Jerusalem.

Mr. Willard did not remain to see this glory; for the parish voted, 1793, one year previously, "that solely considering the state of the parish and Mr. Joseph Willard's health," a dismission of the Rev. Joseph Willard from the relation of pastor to this parish take place, "on condition that he relinquish his salary for half a year." Mr. Willard did so and left. For three years the parish was without a pastor, experimenting with candidates, which resulted in the call and ordination of Mr. Ezra Witter, August 16, 1797. He was a man of learning, had a large library for those days, and received many scholars from neighboring towns, some of whom

he fitted for college. He was a farmer, also; and his farming did not aid him as a pastor among his people, as they thought, and he was dismissed, April 11, 1814, after a ministry of seventeen years. The society prospered, however, under his ministrations. The meeting-house was repaired, a bell purchased, hung, and rung in 1802, the first Sabbath bell of the "Mountains."

There was, however, during this and the previous pastorate, and the years intervening, much "trouble" with the Baptists and Methodists. Sometimes, the taxes of the members of these societies are abated; sometimes not. Sometimes, it is voted "to exempt Methodists and Babtes and all other denominations, who have obtained certificates, from taxation." Then taxation of all without respect of persons is resorted to. These heretics would conscientiously or obstinately come into parish-meeting and vote, and disturb, thereby, the peace of Zion; so it is voted that the Methodists and Baptists *shall not vote*. But they did *not* obey. The "moderate Calvinist," and peacemaker generally, Rev. Joseph Lathrop, D. D., of West Springfield, preached a most acceptable sermon to them, it would seem, in the winter of 1794, for the parish raise a committee to present him thanks "for his Ingenius and pertinent Sermon," and "to request a copy for the Press," and that "they deliver one Book to Each Family in the Parish."

In spite of the good doctor's ointment, the sores multiplied and grew more inflamed. Suits were commenced for taxes. Piety was evidently giving place to

pluck on all sides. Even the jail-doors were opened long enough to aid and gratify the spirit of martyrdom. Goods were seized; sometimes worthless articles were placed in the way of officers to ensnare and mortify them. Sometimes, the heretics would come into parish meeting in such a body as to outvote the orthodox, as in 1819, when Augustus Sisson was chosen moderator, and Abel Bliss, Jr., clerk. Compromises were attempted; but like all compromises, they had in them the elements of their own destruction. The controversy wore itself out and expired by a change in the fundamental law of the land.[1]

Attempts were made during the four years subsequent to Mr. Witter's dismissal, to settle another minister. But it is evident that the liberal and exclusive elements in the parish itself were working more actively and rendering any agreement upon a pastor more and more difficult. Two ministers were called, Mr. Joel Fairchild and Mr. Calvin Colton, but neither accepted. A special effort was made to secure Mr. Colton; and the church caused a paper to be drawn up in which the evils of controversial, sectarian preaching are deprecated, and a desire expressed that their pastor should confine his teaching on controverted points to the language of inspiration, or not to speak upon them at all. They requested a committee to present the paper to Mr. Colton expressing their confidence that, as he had "in a good measure conformed himself to that rule" thus far, "he would increase more and more in that and all other

[1] Appendix Z.

divine graces which tend directly to the harmony of the church and the prosperity of Zion." Mr. Colton declined, however. Whether the graces expected were not attractive to him, or their acquisition impossible, does not appear, and Mr. Ebenezer Brown was called, Dec. 16, 1818, by the parish, 47 for, 17 against; by the church, 21 for, 4 against. The parish were evidently not satisfied, and 28 voted against paying the council. Mr. Brown's pastorate was a turbulent one, for the man's foes were they of his own household. The Methodists and Baptists had rest. It is hoped they enjoyed their repose more than they did the old society's quarrels. Society and church were both tossed and rent. Mr. Brown ruled so firmly that his throne crumbled under him, and the society well-nigh was lost by his attempt to save it. In 1821, three years after his settlement, the parish lost twenty tax payers, and granted their rates amounting to $139.84. The church is constantly harassed with cases of discipline and councils, nearly twenty pages of the record being occupied with such painful troubles. It became evident that the method adopted with refractory members would neither convert nor restore them, and, July 5, 1827, Mr. Brown was dismissed. A greater part of those who had left the parish and the church returned, and apparent peace again visited Zion. From this time to the close of the century, 1863, or thirty-six years, there have been four pastors, one of whom was connected with

the church nineteen years. The Parish Ministry Fund is now eight hundred and fifty dollars.

The old meeting-house was first repaired, and then after its third period of service, it was removed again, not to shelter worshippers, but beasts, and a new church was erected on the spot where it stood. The old parsonage house of the "worthy Mr. Mirick," and the old meeting-house, which stood by it for almost half a century, both served the hospitable purpose of housing and sheltering beasts after they had rendered good service to man. The parsonage, some years since, by its own decrepitude, and the assistance of a storm, escaped viler uses which it foresaw near at hand. The old meeting-house, now a livery stable, still stands near the new one, the "ranging timber" of Hitchcock, Brewer, and Stebbins as sound as when they dragged it up "Wigwam Hill."

It is time that I turn to the South Parish. My story will be short; for the records of the first nine years are lost, and there were few wars and rumors of wars of which history is made.

The parish was incorporated, June 11, 1782. Previous to this, however, there had been preaching in the place. In the summer season, the services were held under the oak-trees, which some of us remember as standing behind the church half a century afterwards. In the winter, they were held in private houses. Capt. Paul Langdon had the meeting-house ready to raise in June, 1783. I suppose I am safe in saying that there

is no person present in this crowded audience who was present at the raising, except our respected President, whose mother carried him in her arms to the spot when he was nine months old; and a noble boy he was. The house was placed in the street, nearly opposite the present residence of Mrs. Aaron Warren, much to the annoyance of the town and the comeliness of the village, and several attempts were made to remove it before the present generation purchased the site where it now stands, remodelled and convenient, and pleasant to look upon.

For ten years, it was a mere shell, rough-boarded on the outside, with board windows, with no seats but rough slabs and boards, and a box of the same rude material for a pulpit; the timbers of the walls and roof were all exposed, and the swallows built their nests and raised their young on the beams and rafters, over the heads of the congregation. In 1793, £246, 15s. were appropriated to finish the house and "see it glassed." A church was organized in 1785, and Rev. Moses Warren was ordained pastor, September 3, 1788, when the church contained sixty-five members. His settlement was £150, and his salary was £58, 14s. ($188.33), one-half to be paid in commodities, and twenty-four cords of wood yearly. The wood was usually taken by the lowest bidder per cord, in lots of from four to six cords. It is not to be supposed for a moment that his parishioners would bring to their pastor either short measure or poor wood, yet it was

found convenient in 1816 to commute the wood for money, and about thirty dollars seem to have been thought a just equivalent.

Seating the meeting-house was a cause of offence to many persons, and caused so much dissatisfaction, as also the raising of Mr. Warren's salary by taxing the polls and estates of the members of the parish, that an attempt was made, 1796, to raise money and remove rivalry and jealousy, by selling the pews to the highest bidder for choice for one year, provided the sum realized by the sale should be sufficient to cover parish expenses. At the first sale a sufficient sum was not realized, and it was declared void. At the second sale several persons who bid at the first sale were outbidden, or did not bid at all, and for some reason took no pew. This method was accordingly laid aside, and not revived till within a few years. The old method of seating, with all its irritations, was again resorted to and continued till 1829. Attempts were made to remove the meeting-house out of the road, in 1817, 1822, 1824, but in vain; the parish refusing to do it at their expense, and individuals not succeeding in raising money to do it at theirs. They did, however, in the last year, succeed in raising money by subscription to paint and shingle it; and in 1838, the parish voted that, if no expense to the parish, individuals might remove the meeting-house to where it now stands, and it was done. By a subscription among all the inhabitants of the parish, a bell was put into the tower, and for the first time the

mountains around that beautiful valley echoed to the tones of the church-going bell, in the sacred stillness of Sunday morning.

Some cases of discipline arose in the church, some foolish, some painful; yet compared with churches generally, it may be said that the brethren lived in peace. The inroads of other denominations caused some difficulty in levying taxes; and as members left to join other societies, the pressure of parish expenses made the members feel restive. But generally it may be said that a commendable degree of good-will prevailed, and the wounds were soon healed which offences had made. It was wise not to open the meeting-house to everybody, on their asking for the key, and it was not often refused, if ever, when application was made in a suitable manner to the proper authorities. No marked seasons of religious interest occurred during Mr. Warren's ministry till 1822. In the summer of that year, Rev. Asahel Nettleton, a famous revivalist, who was preaching as an evangelist in Somers, where there was a great awakening, came into the place, and by his instrumentality, sixty-two persons united with the church in October; and in November, thirty-one more; in all, ninety-three additions. Other subjects of the revival joined other churches, so that the whole number of conversions was over one hundred. Mr. Warren continued his ministry till his death, February 19, 1829, in the seventy-second year of his age, and the forty-first of his ministry. He had baptized four hundred and sev-

enty-eight adults and children. He was the only man the parish knew as a minister. He was identified with all the interests of religion and education, and by his encouragement and instruction, no less than fourteen young men of his parish were fitted for college. He published but one sermon, that on the death of Mr. Abdiel Loomis, about 1800. He was a good man, meek, modest, scholarly, devout, — not a popular preacher. His style of writing was free from boldness and imagination, and his manner of delivery was quiet almost to tameness; yet not seldom the good man's lips trembled and his tongue faltered when he spake of "righteousness, temperance, and judgment." Of unsullied integrity, of unchallenged piety, of sincere and unquestioned humility, he

"Allured to brighter worlds, and led the way."

The Rev. William L. Strong, of Somers, preached his funeral sermon, February 23d. He says of Mr. Warren, "He was peculiarly a man of prayer. His brethren in the ministry will long remember with what eagerness he entered upon those seasons of prayer, and other devotional exercises, which were sometimes observed in their meetings for mutual improvement. * * * As a minister of Christ, Mr. Warren discharged his duty with fidelity. * * * In his intercourse with his people, they will bear me out when I say that he was most kind and affectionate. In his pastoral visits, and his visits to the sick and dying, he commended himself

to the conscience. * * * In respect to his qualifications for the ministry, he always spoke with diffidence. So impressed was he with the greatness of the work, and with the high qualifications requisite to discharge successfully the duties of the sacred office, that he was often heard to say, that if he could have anticipated the labors and trials and difficulties he was to realize, he should scarcely have dared to be a minister. But it pleased God to employ him in his church, and we believe he has been enabled so to demean himself as to magnify his office. Nor has he been left without a witness that his labors were approved of God. * * * The approach of death did not fill him with alarm. When nature was nearly exhausted, he bade farewell to his family and friends, and fell asleep, and we doubt not became an inhabitant of that world which the Saviour has gone to prepare for all his people." [1]

From the death of "The Good Man," Rev. Mr. Warren, 1829, till the present time, 1863, thirty-four years, there have been six pastors over the society. The longest pastorate was eight years and six months, and the shortest eighteen months. For two years, a stated supply was employed. Of these pastors, it would not be wise to make any special remarks, as their service is of too recent date to admit of the calm judgment of history. It may be said, however, that the immediate successor of Mr. Warren, Rev. Mr. Clarke, who ten years since went to his reward, little under-

[1] Appendix AA.

stood the temper of the parish, and the gentle spirit of his predecessor. The consequence was, as in the case of the Rev. Mr. Brown of the North Parish, contention and division, which culminated in the unharmonious dismission of Mr. Clarke in three years. The wounds were seven years in healing, even under the ministrations, a portion of the time, of that saintly man, Rev. Ebenezer R. Wright.

The parish is as prosperous as can be reasonably expected, where, with so small a population, there are two other prosperous societies also. The whole number of persons admitted to the church from its commencement, down to February 2, 1862, is 488; of these, forty-eight were admitted in the spring of 1861, when there was no settled pastor, by Rev. Messrs. Doe, Almon, and Underwood. The Ministry Fund is now nine hundred and fifty dollars.

To a thoughtful friend of Zion it seems a calamity that evangelical Christians, so called, who admit the Christian character of the members of their different churches, cannot agree to unite their means in the support of one society, and thus economize means, and strengthen both the brotherhood and religion. They could thus afford to sustain a pastor, without disagreeable self-sacrifice, who would command by his talents the respect, and enlighten by his scholarship the minds, of the community. No people can be lifted from the murkiness of superstition, and the narrowness of sect,

but by one who stands high above them in generous manhood and large culture, as well as fervent piety.

Sunday schools were opened in town about forty years ago. The scholars mostly committed hymns and verses from the Bible, which were recited to their teachers, or rather hearers, for very little instruction was given. At a later period, question-books were introduced, and information was given by the teachers. Premiums were offered at first to those scholars who committed the greatest number of verses, thus by inflaming the worst passions, — jealousy, rivalry, envy, — violating the spirit, to obtain the letter, of Scripture. At an earlier period, the "Assembly's Catechism" was learned in the public schools, and the minister was accustomed so go in once a month, on Saturdays, and hear the children recite it. Sometimes, the children went to the meeting-house or to the minister's house, on Saturday afternoon, and recited it there to him. These were great occasions to the little folks. It is not to be supposed that they understood the awful mysteries unfolded in the words which they repeated. They did understand, however, that they were, in this exercise, reciting what was sacred, and reverent feelings arose under the influence of unmeaning sounds.

The public schools in town were not forgotten in the contentions and anxieties which followed the Revolution. Though embarrassed with debt, and burdened with taxes, our fathers understood that knowledge was one of the corner-stones of the republic. There were

but two school-houses in town at the close of the Revolution, — one on the street near the present Congregational meeting-house; the other east, on the middle road, on the mountain; both in the North Parish. The school-districts had done what they could, probably, to erect school-houses, but they were too poor to do much, or to undertake much, and the town came to their aid in 1791, and appropriated £100, to be divided among the districts in proportion to the money they paid into the treasury, and this was to be assessed in a tax by itself. This appropriation was continued for three years.

To elevate the tone of education and give better opportunities to those who were aspiring for more instruction, the town appropriated, in 1792–3, £12 each year, "to the School District in which lives Samuel F. Merrick, Provided they keep a Gramar School six months from the present time and the Inhabitants of the whole town have Liberty to send schollars to said School, said School to be under the direction of the selectmen." The town furthermore voted "that the scholars of such parents as did not furnish one quarter of a cord of wood cut fit for the fire before the first of January, should not be taught at school, and if any teacher violated the rule no order should be given for wages." A vote was also passed about this time that there should be no "work" done in the schools. The teachers "boarded round," remaining at each house where there were scholars, from three to twelve days. This system was continued down to a recent period, — into my own days

of school-teaching, and perhaps since. It was a great occasion, for the children especially, to have the schoolmaster come to their house to board. The goodies were to be arranged in tempting richness and abundance upon the table. If not the fatted calf, the fatted pig was killed, and the last trembling chicken was sacrificed to honor the guest. With what bewitching grace of mingled fear and delight would the little girl, her face all rosy with modesty, her eye sparkling with expectation, stammeringly, half-curteseying, half-hesitating, announce to you the thrilling news that all things were now ready, and that "mother wants you to come and board to our house next week." And when you gave the welcome reply, "I shall be happy to go," how lightly and jocundly she bounded away to announce the news to the envious group of her companions! From that night on, what a stir was under that roof! The candlesticks are scoured, the andirons put in order; the best bed, which had not been occupied for half a year, perchance, overhauled; the best knives and forks taken out of their quiet resting-place and polished; the baby's dresses looked after and ironed out; in short, there was a universal brushing up and smoothing down of the whole premises. Especially did Jemima experiment on the possibility of an unaccustomed curl or crimp in her auburn hair. And when the time came for the master to make one of the household, how many benedictions did he pronounce on the extra rye-and-indian bread; the luscious spareribs; the smoking

cakes; and above all on the sweet, darling baby! And with what earnest importunity did the proud mother insist upon his taking one more piece of the cake redolent of the molasses coating, and making refusal impossible by insinuatingly announcing that Jemima made it! Ah, these were halcyon days, — the elysium of schoolmasters!

Books were less abundant than food, and in spite of the town vote, days would sometimes pass without wood; or the wood would defy the power of fire. Green pine did not make good kindling; white birch did, but went out when your expectations were highest. The school-houses were poor, cold, inconvenient. Yet I cannot agree with some of the opinions uttered respecting the generosity of our fathers to the schools. They gave more of their poverty than we give to-day of our abundance for the same object. Money was hard to get, but labor they could furnish. They could work on the roads, but not in the school-room. They will appear generous to the schools when we consider their condition. From 1790 to 1799 inclusive, the town appropriated $3496.96, for educational purposes. From 1831 to 1840 inclusive, the town appropriated, for the same purposes, $7,200, only about twice as much, after a period of forty years of thrift, and reckoning the income of the surplus revenue, amounting to $82 annually. Our ancestors have no reason to be ashamed of their appropriations for schools. Poor as their schools and their school-houses were, they denied

themselves as many comforts as we do to keep the torch of knowledge burning.

Our schools have been constantly improving. A geography with an atlas was introduced as early as 1820. Dabol superseded Pike ; and Smith, Dabol. It is only in very recent times that boys generally have been rash enough or bold enough to study grammar and geography, or girls hardy and courageous enough to study arithmetic. I remember the first boy who was presumptuous enough to venture on fractions ; and I remember the one who did all his sums by proxy, compensating for the work by drawing ships, at which he was an adept, on his substitute's slate. I believe I was myself the first person who taught Colburn's Intellectual Arithmetic in town ; it was in 1828. Never, probably, were the public schools in better condition than to-day. Gradual improvement has marked them from the beginning. There is yet, however, abundant room for improvement, and you will make it. This year you pay seventeen hundred and forty-two dollars for the support of your schools, in the midst of a terrible civil war, while only twenty years ago, in 1840, in a time of profound peace you paid not half as much, — only eight hundred dollars. Onward ! the path grows brighter and brighter. Posterity will be more grateful for nothing you leave them than for good public schools. Without intelligence, piety degenerates into superstition, and power becomes satanic.

Besides the public schools, there have always been

men in town who have taught private schools, where better instruction was given. They were the worthy ministers, who knew that piety without knowledge is superstition. Mr. Witter, of the North Parish, was a scholar. Mr. Brown had a grammar school. Mr. Warren, of the South Parish, had scholars till his death; and Elder Bennett not only had private scholars, but sometimes taught a public school. By these means, the children of the town were enabled to obtain a very respectable education without leaving its limits. Academies were opened in Springfield and Monson, and some of the most thrifty and earnest sent their children abroad. In 1826, however, the necessity and desire ceased, for this academy was founded, by the self-sacrifice and persistent labors of Calvin Brewer, Abel Bliss, Abraham Avery, and others. They were not ashamed to accept the day of small things. A regenerated tavern was made a boarding-house, and that building,[1] only half-finished, for want of funds, was dedicated as a school-house by Wilbur Fiske, the principal. Would you know the result? Look around you. How has the little one become a thousand! Twice burned to ashes, the boarding-house has risen like the fabled Phœnix in renewed strength and greatness, till she now invites her children, from ocean to ocean, to walk around her and number her towers; and princely merchants from Boston to the Golden Gate lavish on her their treasures. Bishops, Presidents and Professors of Colleges and Theological

[1] The speaker pointed to the old academy building.



WESLEYAN ACADEMY, WILBRAHAM, MASS.

FOUNDED, 1824.

Schools, Teachers in Seminaries, Lawyers, Physicians, Mechanics, Farmers, through the land, rise up and call her blessed. May her glory be still further spread! May her children be still further multiplied!

For many years after the settlement of the town, it was necessary to draw all lumber from the saw-mill at Sixteen Acres. Lewis Langdon erected the first saw-mill, as I have said, about eighty rods below the Ravine Factory on the Scantic in 1750; Abner Badger's saw-mill, on Third Brook, where the old mill now stands, near the late Capt. Chaffee's, was in operation before 1772. In 1762 the town gave Caleb Stebbins of Wilbraham and Joseph Miller of Ludlow a deed of four acres of the Ministry lot on Twelve Mile Brook, as a site for a grist-mill. Some years intervened before there was a grist-mill in the south part of the town; but before the close of the Revolutionary War, and most probably some time previously, Langdon erected a grist-mill, afterwards owned by Benanuel Leach, about a hundred rods below his saw-mill. David Burt erected one shortly after on or near the site of the present mill in the southeast part of the town. One was also erected about the same time by Mr. Wright not far from the residence of the late Benjamin H. Russell, on Middle or Second Brook. In the early part of this century, Mr. Bacon of Brimfield built a grist-mill where the "Ravine Factory" now stands, but sold soon after to Christopher Langdon, grandson of Lewis. It passed through the hands of Jacob Wood and Hubbard Arnold into those of William Moseley, who

thoroughly remodelled the mill, rebuilt the dam, erected a saw-mill and added a shingle-mill. It was burnt down a few years since, and a wrapping-paper manufactory built on its ashes, which has in turn given place to the present factory. At the "turn of the river," so called, was the saw-mill of Capt. Charles Sessions, and after it fell to pieces, another was erected the north side of the river, near the road, on the spot where the "South Wilbraham Manufacturing Co." has its mill, to make place for which, the saw-mill again crossed the stream to the south side. Before the close of the last century, an attempt was made by Capt. Joel Pease to erect a mill near Mr. Roswell Phelps's on the plains, and a dam was erected; but the country was so flat that the overflow of the pond was seriously objectionable and the project was given up. Meantime a saw-mill had been erected by Caleb Stebbins at his grist-mill, and Burt also erected one on his dam. At last, as if the waters of the Scantic and its tributaries had not been worked sufficiently hard, Milton Stebbins erected a grist and saw mill just south of the bridge on the west side of the mountain, about thirteen years ago, making from first to last seven saw-mills, five grist-mills, and one shingle-mill.

Nor was this all. Clothing was needed as well as food and shelter. Mr. A. Worthen brought into town from Mendon, in 1803, August 10, the first carding machine and placed it in a building erected by Jonathan Kilborn on the site of the present Satinet Factory on Twelve Mile Brook, by the side of Stebbins's Mill.

Fulling mills and carding machines were soon erected by Walter Burt near Burt's Mill, by Jonathan Flint just below the village bridge; and Laban Button, near Burt's had a fulling mill. Beriah Smith and Brothers, who bought out Flint, did a large business in dyeing and dressing cloth. Just below Smith's was Roper's Clover Mill which was famous in its day. He added the manufacture of chairs to the cleansing of clover-seed. Walter Burt invented a pair of shears for cutting the nap of cloth, but they worked imperfectly and were superseded by other and better machines.

The amount of wood consumed by the early inhabitants gave an overplus of ashes for home consumption, and William King manufactured potashes in the south village near the old meeting-house, and Paul Langdon by the Potash Hill.

Thomas and Hervey Howard erected a tannery at an early day on the road from the street to Stony Hill, and Abraham Avery had one near his late residence. Mr. West followed the business in the South Parish at the foot of the hill by the brook over the bridge, and then on the spot which his descendants now occupy. The Chaffee Brothers, Daniel and Jonathan, had a tannery near the site of the present one.

The time would fail me to name the cider-mills or even the cider-distilleries. Stewart Beebe's was much the largest of the latter. Orchards were very numerous and large on the mountains, and a farmer often made three hundred barrels of cider — and sometimes, with

sorrow be it spoken, drank thirty and a barrel of brandy to give it tone. The temperance reform, thirty years ago, swept them all away, and we glory in our sobriety and clear cool springs and deep refreshing wells instead of rows of cider barrels and kegs of proof brandy.

To Deacon Sumner Sessions belongs the faith and foresight and energy of erecting the first woollen mill in Wilbraham, which now turns off every day one thousand yards of three-fourth satinet. Below the "South Wilbraham Co.," is the "Ravine Manufacturing Co.," started 1856, whose mill manufactures two thousand yards of doeskins a week. The factory of Gates and Nelson on Twelve Mile Brook is in full operation, turning off one thousand yards a week of low grade satinet, and near by it is the mill of Messrs. Ellis and Houghton which makes about two thousand yards a week of the same style of goods. The capacity of all these mills is about eleven thousand yards a week, or six hundred thousand yards annually. Near our borders, at Jenksville, there have been for many years large mills, whose operatives have furnished a good market for the productions of our soil.

There was no post-office in the town till 1821; all our letters came to Springfield. I have been there for letters in my boyhood. Matthew Gardner brought the first mail to the town in a one-horse wagon, — a poor wagon and a poorer horse; and Coombs, once a week, came riding through the streets, blowing his horn, with the papers. I remember how we children would stare at Mr. Gardner, the wonderful mail-man, as he passed.

The first regular mail and stage line in New England, if an open wagon can be called a stage, was started by the enterprise of Reuben Sikes of this town and Levi Pease of Somers, 1772. It left the Lamb Tavern in Boston every Monday at 6 A. M., and reached Hartford on Wednesday; another stage or wagon left Hartford at the same time and reached Boston Wednesday night. The same team was driven all the way, stopping nights. The old Sikes' tavern was standing many years ago on the "Great Road" not far from Mr. Baldwin's.[1]

Many years after, about 1823, a mail and stage line was started from Springfield to Providence; this was the first stage which passed through the South Parish. In 1828, a company was formed to run a line of stages from Hartford to Ware, which went through the town on the main road. Both these lines were suspended after a few years.

Though the line of the telegraph has gone out through all the earth and thus passed through both parts of the town, still its voice is not heard in our borders; its significant click makes no heart tremble with fear of loss or hope of gain. The message from Boston to San Francisco passes you unheeded as you work in your fields.

Our habitations and domestic habits and comforts have changed not less than our fields and mills. The garments of our fathers changed from skins and breeches to cloth and trousers. Yet the coarse cloth and plain

[1] Appendix BB.

colors were of domestic manufacture and dyeing. Wool was spun and woven at home and prepared for garments at the clothier's. The "tailoring" was done at home by women who went from house to house fitting garments. The old horse was roused at an unaccustomed hour of a cold morning, and while the stars were yet bright was started off after the "tailors"; who were in turn hurried back that they might do a good day's work and earn their money. We children got down the old button-bag, and with an eye to the attractive in other, gentler eyes selected the buttons, and then with vigorous application to the soles of our shoes, made the dull metal glow and sparkle with becoming brightness for its new office. Flax was raised, broken, and swingled by the men; and all through the winter day and long winter evenings the whole house was made musical by the hum of the "foot" and "great" wheel as the mothers spun the flax and the girls spun the tow. The girls were ambitious to have the largest bunches of yarn hung upon the wall and to be reputed the best spinners in the neighborhood. And when the spring came, and the sounding loom and flying shuttle had done their work, there might be seen long pieces of cloth on the clean grass bleaching to snowy whiteness for the tidy housewife's use, or, what was better, for the garnishing of the womanly daughter's new home; for when, in spring-time, it was observed that a larger piece of ground than usual was sown to flax, the prophecy was read of all that Hannah was, the next season, to bless John with a happy home

and loving heart. Cotton cloth is a modern notion, and has driven the prophetic flax and busy wheels and sounding looms from our homes, almost from our memories. The braiding of straw and palm-leaf succeeded spinning and weaving, and often the whole family, boys as well as girls, spent the long evenings manufacturing straw hats and bonnets, and palm-leaf hats. The income from this occupation purchased the cloth which had before been manufactured at home. Hundreds of thousands of yards of straw braid were sold from the town. This also is past now. The hands of the young are turned to other employments. The "nicely sanded floor" gave place, about fifty years ago, to the first carpet; and I doubt if there were a dozen in town in 1810. As late as 1800 there were log-houses here, and some who hear me were born in them. Capt. Paul Langdon had the only clock in the Scantic district for many years, and at nine o'clock in the evening he was accustomed to blow a horn to signify the time to the neighborhood. The first cooking stove was brought into town by Calvin Stebbins in 1814; now they are as numerous as the houses. Crockery was rare; wooden plates, called trenchers, and wooden or pewter spoons were used by adults as well as by children sixty or eighty years ago. Very few men or women and no children wore shoes in summer, and some would have been thankful for them in the winter. A pair of boots was a wonder. Woollen mittens served for kids. Who had a watch in 1800? Who hasn't one in 1863? Our ancestors of the

last century and the old people of my boyhood said, "coold" (could), woold (would), shoold (should). They pronounced daughter, "dafter"; nation, na-ti-on; motion, mo-ti-on. Educational prejudices were as much shocked when Webster directed these words to be pronounced, "nashun," "moshun," as religious prejudices were when Master Morgan ventured to beat time with his hand while singing in church, and when Watts' Psalms and Hymns were substituted for Tate and Brady. But education spread in spite of the one as religion did in spite of the other. The use of the iron plough did not destroy the fertility of the soil, nor did plaster of paris turn the garden into a desert.

In the latter part of the last century and the first quarter of this, there was no market for the farmer which would quicken his enterprise and prompt to thrift, by a demand for the surplus products of his farm. Springfield was but a village, and a poor one, in 1780, numbering but a few inhabitants more than this town. Indeed, this town, before the commencement of the Revolution, had nearly as many inhabitants as Springfield. The land, at the foot of the mountains and in the valleys between them, was more productive than that of the mother town. The surplus rye and corn, therefore, which the farmer raised, was of little value, till distilleries were erected at Sixteen Acres, Springfield, Still Water, and Warehouse Point. At these, rye and corn were sold and cash paid in return; not seldom, a barrel of gin being taken in part payment. After the tempest

of the temperance reformation swept over the country, the gin distilleries went down with the cider distilleries. The market was closed. But at about the same time the Western Railroad was opened. Springfield immediately grew from a sparse village to a crowded, enterprising city; and a new and ready market was opened at greatly enhanced prices for all that the farmer could raise. I remember how the farmers predicted that opening that road, by which the productions of the endless, inexhaustible gardens of the west could be brought to our market, would ruin them and render their farms worthless. Behold the change! These farms are within less than two hours' drive of one of the best markets in the State, and all the products of the farm now command much more remunerating prices. Thrift has consequently taken the place of indifference, and within thirty years the farms of the town have been improved vastly. The desert has become a garden. The mountains and the hills, with their wood and stone; the fields and meadows, with their harvests of grain and burdens of grass, have enriched the population.

Such, fellow-citizens, is the history of our town. No harmful rivalry has seriously disturbed the harmony of the separate parishes, though town-meetings have sometimes witnessed a friendly struggle for the honors of office or the championship in wrestling. The winding bridle-paths of the olden time have been straightened, without regard to the symmetry or sacredness of fields, meadows, or gardens. The furor for straightness has

succeeded the policy of crookedness, and at last the locomotive came roaring, screaming, tearing through the mountain, where the old "Bay Path" once hardly furnished footing for Thomas Glover's horse, lifting its column of smoke above the rocks, flashing its cyclopean eye of fire through the darkness, making all the mountains rock and reverberate from the Chicopee to the Scantic. From blazed bridle-path to iron railway; from plodding steed to thundering locomotive; from the old wooden plough, by whose use it would be hard to tell which was the more tormented, the holder or the soil, to the cast-iron beauty; from the narrow corn-patch and consumptive rye-field to rich meadows and broad and fertile acres; from cattle which rivalled Pharaoh's "lean kine" in greediness and leanness to fat and sleek oxen and generous milkers; from swine too lank even for the spirits of Gadara to find a home in, and swift of foot as greyhounds, to porkers whose eyes are closed with fatness and which sit dignifiedly to eat; from sheep whose hairy wool was to be gathered from the bushes of the pastures through which they searched for food to the beautiful merino whose fleece is silk; from unfurnished houses and log-cabins to tasteful homes and rich furniture; from frowsy garments to attractive apparel; from poor school-books and lean instruction to constantly increasing means of good culture, the town has risen during these one hundred and thirty years, and most of this progress has been made within the last quarter of this period.

Through all its history the town has been signalized by the equal distribution of its property. It has had few men above competency, few below it. None rich; very few poor. The prayer of Agur has been fulfilled here. Healthful competency; neither poverty nor riches, has been the portion of the town; and she has looked with pride not with envy, Mr. President, upon the splendor of her mother's achievements and renown. Virtue, the usual attendant upon industry and competency, has been the crowning glory of our town. Of crime it has hardly known anything. The murder which startled the whole country, committed on the "Great Road" at the commencement of the century, 1802, was the act of foreigners. Of calamity we have known also but little. Besides the accident in the last year of the last century, by which five young persons were drowned in Ninemile Pond, very few casualties have befallen our citizens. We have been preserved from flood and fire. Of vice there has been but little and that little has been growing less, for it is not true that the sons have dishonored the fathers, that vice has taken the place of virtue, irreligion that of piety. These fields have not improved more in fruitfulness, these dwellings have not improved more in commodiousness, nor our garments more in attractiveness than the population have improved in all true, manly, Christian nobleness. The millennium is before, not behind.

These ancestors of ours were sturdy men. They were hardy, tough, iron-fibred. Their muscles were

knitted and firm and large. They were strong and vigorous and compact. They were of the Egyptian not of the Corinthian order of architecture; massive more than graceful. Their minds were less cultivated than their bodies. They were of strong appetencies; impelled by animal passions more than guided by refined tastes. The refined, the beautiful, the graceful attracted them but little, living as they did among the bears and stumps. Animal desires were most clamorous and first gratified. Their propensities were necessarily of the earth, earthy. They had to contend with poverty and storm and beasts. The strong, the bold, the grotesque were, therefore, attractive to them. What they could wear and eat and drink was most valuable to them. We must be just to these tough pioneers. We must not expect from them what we, with all our superior advantages, have not attained. Their age was not one of poetic ease, but of stern and tough reality, — of hard work and coarse fare, of small means and rigid economy, of desperate shifts to escape suffering, and patient endurance of destitution. Under such circumstances, what can a reasonable mind expect but the sterner virtues and the coarser vices?[1]

In reading the records and studying the history of the town I have found no reason to decry the lapse of the sons nor to apologize for the sins of the fathers. They had their errors; we have ours. We are here today to vindicate our own claim to improvement by ren-

[1] Appendix CC.

dering a tribute of honor and gratitude to them for the richness of our heritage. By a just appreciation of their industry, economy, patriotism, heroism, do we show ourselves worthy to be their sons.

Honor, then, all honor, as we stand upon the height of the century, to the early settlers of the town, the founders of its institutions, and the fathers of its thrift. Their names shall be household words. They live in their sons and their son's sons even to this day. Industry, economy, piety, — these were the crowning virtues of our fathers; they are those of their descendants, improved by better culture, enlightened by a purer faith. Many of their sons have graduated from college and entered upon the various professions, to which they have done honor, — some have risen to high and responsible stations. And we reckon many more who, without the aids of college culture, have made themselves useful or eminent in professional life.[1]

The town has produced no one great man who has eclipsed the glory of all others, or who gathered to himself all the honors of the town. Her sons have shared the talents as they did the wealth of the town, in very equal proportion.

As they nobly bore their share in the burdens and perils of the war of invasion, of independence, so now you rise in the glory of your strength to crush rebellion and vindicate freedom. If Warriner, and Warner, and Merrick, and Bliss, and Brewer, and Chapin, and

[1] Appendix DD.

Langdon, and Stebbins, and Morris, rushed to the field to throw off the yoke of British oppression, and wring from royal lips the confession of our independence and nationality, their sons, not less patriotic, not less heroic, have left home and wife and child, to wrench from the clutch of traitors the sacred ark of liberty and the holy standard of freedom. The blood of the loved and the brave has been poured out like water that the sin of oppression may be atoned for; and the cry for help from the struggling country, writhing in the scaly folds of the rebellion, will not be disregarded

> While Wilbra'am has a man to die,
> A woman left to close his eye,
> To eat a single crust.

But the hour has come for the feast and the games. The herald gives the signal. My voice must hush. Sons and daughters of Wilbraham, we stand upon the threshold of a new century. None of us will behold its close. Let us pass on gratefully, trustfully, giving room to the coming generations. Let us so live that those who come after us will honor our memory for our thrift and virtue as we honor that of our fathers.

Pass on, venerable representatives of the past generation. We, in the strength and vigor of mature manhood, take the torch of civilization from your hands, and the words of exhortation from your lips, with honor and gratitude. Arouse, ye in life's meridian glory; worthily pass on the flaming brand, loudly pronounce the golden words. Hail, ye youthful company, fresh with the dews

of the morning, receive the ancestral fire rom our hands, the ancestral wisdom from our lips. Advance, ye future generations. Take the heritage we bequeath to you, and not only preserve but improve it. Announce, as you gather in nineteen hundred and sixty-three to do honor to your ancestors, that the message of this first centennial assemblage to you is, that Eternal Vigilance is the price of liberty, immaculate justice the foundation of national perpetuity; that neither liberty nor perpetuity has any firm basis but in personal virtue, virtue none but in knowledge; and "that neither freedom nor virtue nor knowledge has any vigor or immortal hope except in the principles of the Christian faith and the sanctions of the Christian Religion."

Appendix.



Thos Chubbuck, Engr. Springfield, Ms

WESLEYAN ACADEMY — WILBRAHAM, MASS.

FOUNDED, 1824.

APPENDIX.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WILBRAHAM, AND THE SPEECHES AT THE DINNER.

THE town clerk of Wilbraham, Mr. H. Bridgman Brewer, while examining the records with Charles Stearns, Esq., of Springfield, discovered that it was nearly a century since the town was incorporated. He thought that some public notice should be taken of the day; and after consulting with some of the citizens, he laid the subject before the selectmen, who inserted an article in the warrant for the annual April meeting, 1862, "to see what the town would do in relation" thereto. It was "voted to raise a committee of nine to take the matter into consideration," and "John B. Morris, John W. Langdon, Samuel Beebe, Pliny Merrick, Calvin Brewer, William V. Sessions, John Wesley Bliss, Samuel L. Bliss, and John M. Merrick were chosen that committee.

This committee met November 4th, and instructed John B. Morris to correspond with some person to prepare an address to be delivered before the inhabitants of the town on the approaching anniversary, June 15, 1863.

At a meeting held April 6, 1863, the committee organized by choosing John B. Morris, chairman, and John M. Merrick, secretary.

Mr. Morris reported that he had corresponded with Hon O. B. Morris, Rev. Dr. Russell, and Rev. Dr. Stebbins, and that Rev. Dr. Stebbins had accepted the invitation and would deliver the address, and presented the following letters: —

LETTER OF INVITATION.

SOUTH WILBRAHAM, Jan. 30, 1863.

REV. RUFUS P. STEBBINS, D. D.

MY DEAR SIR: The town of Wilbraham was incorporated on the 14th of June, 1763, in the third year of the reign of King George the Third. The inhabitants, being desirous of celebrating that occasion, chose a committee to carry the same

into effect, and have selected you to address them on that occasion; and I do now, on behalf of said committee, invite you to perform that service, and sincerely hope you will not decline.

Be pleased to give as early an answer as you can conveniently.

Yours, very respectfully,

JOHN B. MORRIS, for the Committee.

REV. R. P. STEBBINS, D. D., Woburn, Mass.

REPLY.

WOBURN, Feb. 4, 1863.

JOHN B. MORRIS, ESQ.

MY DEAR SIR: Accept my thanks for the honor your committee have done me by their invitation to deliver the address at the Centennial Celebration of the incorporation of the town of Wilbraham.

I was born there, and there rest the ashes of my ancestors, near and remote. I should feel as if I lacked gratitude if I permited other, even pressing, duties to hinder my saying what history will justify in honor of the place of my nativity.

I therefore accept your invitation, in the hope that the memories of the day may make the place of our birth dearer to those of us who have strayed from it, as well as to those who still cleave to it.

Yours, most truly,

RUFUS P. STEBBINS.

JOHN B. MORRIS, ESQ., and others,
Committee of Arrangements.

Immediately invitations were prepared and sent abroad to the scattered children of the town, and officers appointed to make special arrangements for the celebration. The address was to be delivered in Fiske Hall, and the dinner to be taken in the dining-hall of the Academy boarding-house, by the kind permission of Dr. Raymond, Principal of the Institution.

By a mistake in the printed act of incorporation, the supposed day of the anniversary, the 14th of June, would fall on Sunday, and the committee had determined to have the celebration on the 17th. Several invitations had been sent out before the misprint was discovered. It was discovered that the parchment copy of the act in the State archives gives the 15th as the day the act was signed by the governor. The time for the services was therefore changed to the real day, Monday, 15th.

The day came, and was all that could be desired for clearness, though warm. The citizens began to gather at an early hour, and long before the procession was to start from the Congregational church for the Hall, the main street was filled with people exchanging most hearty congratulations. Flags were flying, and a band of music was playing. At 11 o'clock the line was formed, and the procession moved for the Hall. When it reached Rev. Dr. Raymond's house, Dr. Stebbins and a few personal friends joined it, and passed up the beautiful academy grounds to Fiske Hall. It was evident that but a small portion of even the proces-

sion, to say nothing of the multitude standing around, could enter the Hall.

After the Hall, platform, and stairways had all been packed to suffocation, and the band had played a patriotic air, the chief marshal of the day, Samuel L. Bliss, Esq., called the assembly to order, saying, "My services will be relieved for a time, and I take great pleasure in introducing to the audience, as president of the day, the Honorable Oliver Bliss Morris, a native of this town, though now a resident of Springfield, but who has never forgotten the place of his birth, which he now honors by his presence, as he has always honored it by the integrity which has marked his services in so many stations of responsibility in the County and State."

As Judge Morris rose, ruddy and vigorous, though over eighty years of age, a profound feeling was manifested throughout the hall. He said, "First of all it becomes us to address the throne of grace. I call upon the Rev. Mr. Skeele, of Wilbraham, to lead in prayer." After the prayer, the President said, "I thank you for this honorable position, citizens of Wilbraham. The occasion which has brought us together is one of deep and joyful interest. We have come to do homage to the memory of our fathers, to examine the record of their history, and to bow in humble gratitude to Heaven that we are descended from a most worthy ancestry. I welcome you, therefore to this occasion, fraught with so much interest to all the inhabitants of the town. Especially do I welcome, as the organ of the town, those of her children who have come from abroad. Though civil strife fills the land, and the voice of war sounds through all our borders, we meet in these quiet scenes to forget, for the hour, the distress and tumult around us, and to exchange congratulations that we have so goodly a heritage. Much might be said, but the demands of the occasion will be better met if, instead of saying more, I introduce to you, as I now do, the Rev. Dr. Stebbins, of Woburn, born on the banks of the Scantic, on the very spot where his ancestor pitched his tent, more than a century ago, in the then unbroken wilderness."

Dr. Stebbins then rose, and from a short brief, which he had made of his manuscript, delivered his address, which is printed in this volume. He held the attention of the crowded hall, and even of those in the anterooms, and on the stairways, for over two hours, though the heat was most oppressive. When the address was closed, the gentlemen on the platform, near the speaker, crowded around, uttering the most hearty commendations, while the chief marshal gave notice that the procession would be formed at once, and proceed to the dining-hall of the boarding-house.

The President addressed the audience, saying, "There can be but one opinion on the motion which I am requested by all those about me to put; it is this: It is moved and seconded, by those near me, that a copy of the address, to which we have all listened with so much delight, be requested for the press. As many as are in favor of the printing, say, Aye." An unanimous "aye" rose from every part of the hall.

The procession immediately proceeded to the dining-hall, where over three hundred sat down, at three long tables, to a sumptuous repast, prepared by the efficient steward, Horace Sessions. Blessing was invoked by the Rev. Dr. Raymond, principal of the institution.

After the physical man had been refreshed, and the Rev. Mr. Peabody, of East Longmeadow, had returned thanks, the President said, "There is something still remaining of the rich feast which the people of Wilbraham have prepared for themselves. Her sons have come from afar, and I know that their voices will be grateful to you. I am most happy to introduce to you Honorable Judge Merrick, of Boston, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, and grandson of the first minister of Wilbraham, the "worthy Rev. Noah Merrick."

Judge Merrick rose and said, —

I do not feel at liberty, Mr. President, to forbear from responding, very briefly, to the call you make upon me. But I may be permitted to say here, the chief motive which has induced me to come and participate with you in this Centennial Commemoration is my desire to revisit a place for which and the people toward whom I cherish, alike from my ancestral and personal relations, an attachment of no ordinary interest; and that it was, accordingly, my purpose to be only a silent observer of these scenes, and a gratified listener to whatever might be said by the resident or native inhabitants of the town. And although I now waive all excuses, I am not insensible to the serious difficulty of exciting any interest, or of attracting any favorable attention, so immediately after the close of the excellent address to which we have all had the pleasure of listening this morning, and which is justly entitled to the great favor and the becoming applause with which it was received; and he must be much bolder than I can pretend to be who would willingly venture to expose himself to the criticism which might easily be provoked by such juxtaposition. It has been my lot, from my way of life, to have heard not unfrequently some of the ablest scholars and orators of the country, and I think it no exaggeration to affirm that the address, in its exact appositeness to the occasion, in its complete and exhaustive use of all the befitting materials at command, and in the simple, but significant and felicitous language in which it was closed, combined all that is really essential to eloquence, and may fairly challenge comparison with the best productions which occasions like this have anywhere elicited.

My own interest in this Commemoration arises, in no inconsiderable degree, as you will all feel it naturally must, from the relations which those from whom I am descended have, in times past, sustained to the town. Those relations go back to

a very early period in its history. Twenty-two years before the day of which this is the one hundredth anniversary, and when twenty-five or six families comprehended the entire population then dwelling upon its territory, my grandfather became the ordained minister of the first religious society organized within its limits, and he continued to serve the people in that capacity during a period of thirty-six years, and to the close of his life. I was gratified to learn from the municipal record, of that early date, which was read in your presence this morning, that, when first called to that high service, he was described by those who extended to him their invitation to it, as "the worthy," as well as "the reverend Mr. Merrick." I was touched by the reading of that word the more that I had very recently seen on the plain but enduring tablet, beneath which his remains repose in the neighboring cemetery, the same description of their departed minister and friend, — thus evincing that, to the close of life, he maintained the same good reputation with which he commenced his ministerial career, and left behind him an unblemished name, the best of all riches, as the inheritance of his children.

My father, who was his youngest son, spent the early and a very happy portion of his life here; and I know that he always regarded the place of his nativity with filial affection. It was in the indulgence, and in the nurture, of this sentiment that, in my early youth, he sent me here to commence the studies preparatory to my collegiate education, and placed me under the instruction of the Rev. John Witter, then the pastor of the parish over which his father had so long held the ministerial charge. I remained here but a few months, less, I think in the whole, than a year; but some portions of this period, and not a few of the persons whom I then knew, are still vivid to my recollection; and it has been most agreeable to me that I have met some of them to-day, who yet hold in remembrance our early acquaintance. Grateful for the advantages I enjoyed, and for the kindness extended to me by all, and particularly by my respected instructor, I am happy to avail myself of this opportunity to pay to his memory the humble tribute of my lasting esteem. Mr. Witter was a wise, upright, and eminently good man, — conscientiously scrupulous in the performance of all his duties. He was a diligent, faithful, and able teacher, not only to the pupils under his immediate charge, but, in the wider sphere of his profession, to the people to whom he ministered at the altar. His attainments as a scholar were highly respectable, and his knowledge, as well as his collection of books, was wide and various. Assiduously devoted to his calling, he shrunk from no labor which seemed to him essential to its successful exercise. His public discourses were prepared with uncommon care, and were written in a style so clear and perspicuous that they were easily and readily understood and appreciated by his hearers. In the reading of his sermons he was extremely modest and unpretending. Invariably calm and dispassionate in manner, he yet always made himself felt as a devout and earnest preacher. While he convinced the mind, he did not fail, also, to make effectual appeals to the heart. His power in commanding the attention, and in controlling the emotions of his audience, was quite remarkable; making upon all, even upon the youngest among them, a deep and abiding impression. Even now, after the many years that have since elapsed, and though I was then but in my early childhood, I remember one occasion when, availing himself of a subject of local, but painful, interest, as the theme of his discourse, he so dealt with it, — in showing how the ways of Providence, if dark in their present aspects, are yet designed in mercy, and, if rightly improved, may lead to all the

best and happiest issues, — that a tearless eye could scarcely be found in his congregation. Upon his public ministrations I believe I was a constant attendant, and, in a limited sphere, was in daily intercourse with him; but of his more immediate and personal intercourse with his parishioners, my age and opportunities did not permit me to be either an observer or a judge; but from what I knew of him in other respects, I feel sure that it must have been, as I have been told at a later period, by some of them, that it was, most agreeable, beneficent, and instructive. He became separated from his parish several years after I was one of his pupils, and from this period I ceased to have further knowledge of his pursuits or life.

Since then many changes have necessarily occurred in the parish and in the town. The excellent educational institution, in whose halls we have assembled, and the beautiful portion of the village built up around it, had then no existence. The men of that generation have nearly all passed away: but others have been supplied, worthy, I am most happy to believe, to take their places and carry on the good works which, more than a hundred years ago, were here begun. In one of the early records which was read to us this morning, we find that the inhabitants of the town assembled in public meetings, adopted a resolution in which they warned and instructed their representatives to see to it that the rights, privileges, and liberties of the people should not be sacrificed or in any way invaded or infringed. That was a wise and good resolution, very fit, I dare say, then to be adopted, and certainly worthy to be upheld and acted upon at all times, and in all possible circumstances; and more emphatically so whenever the practical value of the principle involved in it shall be endangered by the treacherous delusions of some pretended present majority, — the ever ready, but deceptive apology for every lawless assumption and encroachment. In the perpetual maintenance of that principle, in the enlargement of your population, and in the advancement of all your moral, educational, and religious institutions, which I believe have hitherto had a constant and regular, though gradual, growth from the first settlement of the town, it is my earnest hope that no impediment may hereafter intercept your still increasing prosperity, welfare, and happiness.

The President: There is a song, to which the speaker alluded in his address, which we now propose to sing in the old fashion of "lining off."

Judge Henry Morris "did" the "lining," and the band, with a few select voices, led, while all who wished, sung or tried to sing. It was remarked that the "grave and reverend seniors" became very boys again during this exercise.

"A little nonsense now and then,
Is relished by the gravest men."

The President: I see before me a worthy son of Wilbraham, whose ancestor was one of the earliest settlers in the south part of the town. I introduce to you the Rev. Dr. Russell, of East Randolph, in this State.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Fellow-Citizens of the Town of Wilbraham:

None of us were born at Rome, and for our first views of nature, none of us looked out upon its eternal hills, and its classic but muddy stream. Such a cruel fate was spared us in the allotments of the Providence of God. This is our Mantua. Here we have driven the flocks and the herds afield, and when the "shadows fell east from the pile," and the darkness thickened along the woods and the feeding grounds, we have been filled with fearful imaginings at sights seen and *unseen*, as we have been compelled to return them to their enclosures at night. It is true that there are here within the vision's range no Alps, no Po, and perhaps no such beauty as is mingled in an Italian sky. But there are attractions here, and they are felt by you, Mr. President, and by this great assembly convened to-day.

We can conceive, sir, of circumstances more favorable to mental culture, and to some of the forms of intellectual development and taste, than those in which our existence begun. But we have never regretted that we were born in Wilbraham. There are various methods in which mental powers are unfolded, directed, educated, and the man becomes fitted for a sphere of successful action in life. The work of education is not done exclusively in the school, the college, or the seminary of learning. There are other scenes and other influences that perform for us this work. The mountain-range, the peak, the crag, the valley, the stream, the spreading landscape and sky, the fireside, and the mother's smile do for us all this work of education.

It is with unutterable emotions, therefore, that we return to this spot of earth on which our eyes were first opened, and look from the eminence where, eighty years since, last December, you, Mr. President, were first pressed to a mother's bosom, upon the beautiful panorama among the hills that is from that home of your childhood spread before us. Those mountain-slopes, those valleys, those woodlands and streams, can never be separated either from the thoughts or the feelings of those whose cradles were rocked in that amphitheatre among the hills. Nay, those streams to-day, as they roll sparkling in the sunshine, the clouds themselves, as they hang over the landscape, are to us all voice, and they call up in our bosom memories that refuse to be uttered save in the quivering lip and the moistened eye. These scenes have done for us, Mr. President, a work that we would not undo if we could; and

> "Time but the impression stronger makes,
> As streams their channels deeper wear."

After the able and eloquent discourse to which we have listened with so much pleasure from the orator of the day, and the just and effective tribute that has fallen from the lips of the distinguished gentleman that has just taken his seat, anything beyond a mere allusion to the past will of course not be expected from me. Yet fidelity forbids me to leave unnoticed the first pastor and religious teacher of the South Precinct in Wilbraham.

The Rev. Moses Warren graduated at the University of Cambridge in 1784, was installed and ordained pastor of the Congregational church in South Wilbraham in 1788, where he continued the functions of his office till his death, in 1829. He was fond of the Greek and Latin classics, as are all the sons of Harvard, and did himself, during the first half of his forty years' ministry, conduct the preparations

of some eighteen or twenty young men for college, besides performing the work of a grammar-school instructor for the sons and daughters too of very many of his parishioners. For this noble work that good man should not be forgotten in the festivities of this passing hour.

As a preacher, if not always analytic and profound, he was still earnest, truthful, sincere. If he did not always instruct and settle minds perplexed with the unsolved problems of religious truth, he did utter in his preaching the spirit of his Master and exemplify in his life the beauty of his character. His mental discipline, his acquisitions of learning, he consecrated on the altar of a confiding people. Youth's green spring he devoted to his charge, and the vigor and the strength of manhood's prime. The timid he encouraged, the desponding he cheered. He wept with his people in their sorrow and anguish, and rejoiced in their success and prosperity. The sick greeted his coming, and his presence lighted up a smile on the countenance that was becoming pale in death. He was

> "Simple, grave, sincere,
> Anxious that the flock he fed should feel it too."

> "He tried each art, reproved each dull delay,
> Allured to brighter worlds, and led the way."

Such, briefly, was this good man, who, unnoticed by the world, fulfilled his course among these hills for forty years. There is, in most of our New England villages or communities that shrewd sense, that sound judgment, that unflinching integrity and moral principle and worth, that to every discerning eye constitute their great attraction. This character is a rampart of strength. It resists the encroachments of vice, becomes a lever that elevates the mass, and a power that softens and refines. It is not always deemed best adapted to the purposes of a celebration; it is not often the theme of newspaper commendation. When the subject of discussion, it is seldom that it creates any available sensation. But it is this daily life of truthfulness, sincerity, honesty, and strong religious affections, exemplified in the homes of our fathers and our mothers, that invests us, their sons and their daughters, with whatever distinguishes us, — if distinguished we be. It has been to us, and is to-day in its influence upon us, like the dews and the showers that descend on these hill-sides and vales — quickening, refreshing. It has given life here its highest form, its meaning, and invested it with its most substantial attractions and charms. It has made our homes sweet, their memory precious. It will ever be, therefore, the language of each of our hearts, "Wilbraham! with all thy faults, I love thee still!" The first pastor of the South Precinct in this town did not a little in shaping and moulding this character, to which we have referred, of our fathers and mothers, who have gone with him to their rest, and left it as a "heritage to their children's children."

A century with all its cares, toils, hardships, hopes, fears, joys, which it brought to the bosoms of our fathers, has passed away. Like them, we are passing, too, our human duration; and when

> "That lingering star, with lessening ray,
> That lov'st to greet the early morn,"

shall usher in the 15th of June, 1963, you and I, Mr. President, and this great

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assembly, will be elsewhere, amid other scenes, and forever engaged in other employments.

Long have you, sir, already lingered here, and brightened the pathway that you have trod. In your responsible position, with the property of the whole county passing through your hands, as it must have done, the ermine of the judge has remained unstained, and the blessings of widows and of orphans have fallen thick on your head. You, doubtless, are little aware of the influence of your own example in stimulating others of your native town to exertion in the career of an honorable ambition. The seventeen from the little parish of South Wilbraham, that have received a public education, could probably state things unknown to yourself in this regard. If Cicero, as he assures us, was vehemently stirred to action as he looked on the marble statues of his distinguished countrymen, surely none of us can be excused for not being moved by the salutary example of a fellow-townsman who lives not in the marble, but walks in his own person among us. Your years are not yet full, we devoutly trust. Long may the freshness and the vigor exhibited to-day linger here and bless our vision.

Serus in Cœlum redeas!

Ladies, gentlemen, fellow-citizens of Wilbraham, I have detained you too long. For us all there yet remain duties, trials, conflicts. Our country is in a furnace of fiery flame. Its agony is intense. A parallel to it in the history of the world can nowhere be found. But if just, true, faithful, in all our relations, however dark and appalling the prospect in any of our circumstances, prosperity and joy will in the end spread their wings over every son and daughter that has waked to life on the slopes and plains and valleys of this our native town.

The President: Wilbraham is rich in her children, who do her honor wherever they go. I see down the table another of her sons, who has come from a remote State to enjoy and honor this day. I introduce to you the Rev. Horatio Stebbins, of Portland, Maine.

Mr. President, Friends, Neighbors, Kindred, Natives of Wilbraham:

Let not my unwillingness to take the place offered me upon the platform in the hall, neither my declining the uppermost seat at the festive board, nor yet my reluctance, which the President has hinted at, to speak on this occasion, be construed into any indifference or want of sympathy with the occasion itself. Indeed, the distance I have come to be here to-day would be a sufficient answer to all that; and if you needed anything more to persuade you, I might tell you how light and happy that journey has been, — my heart throbbing with all boyhood sympathies, and gladness of homeward return. I have declined to sit near you, Mr. President, and your filial mind will not esteem it any disrepect, because this place in company with the remnant of my father's house has a greater persuasion for me; and I have shown thus far a reluctance to open my mouth, because the occasion oppresses me and distracts my thoughts, 'twixt the memory of the past and the associations of the present. My kinsman, the orator of the day, who has rendered us such distinguished service, and for which I desire to thank him, will pardon me if I have

seemed to listen with half-intent and wandering mind, for I have been everywhere to-day, not by my own will or forethought, but drawn by magic powers of the air whithersoever they would. I have lived my life over. I have been back to childhood, laugh and rollic and morning sunshine of existence, and all the varying cloud and sky of human lot have passed over. All the hilltops have blazed in recollection, and cast their light and shadow far down the slope, and across the level plain. How delightful and refreshing the sensation of boyhood and youth! — like a gentle wind from the sweet southwest coming in upon noontide heat and dust! How wonderful to be renewed in feeling, and to look upon this world afresh! How sweet that youthful sensibility which exalted everything it looked upon, and nestled in the heart a source of beauty and wonder! It comes back to me to-day, and I am a boy again! My senses have been renewed, and I see the earth and sky again as they seemed spread above and around my father's house! All things are enhanced and glorified!

The hills are mountains, and prop the heavens with everlasting support; the "goat rocks," half way up the sloping hillside, rise grim and gray, and my voice echoes in the cave beneath, peopled with shadows and half-terrors; the Scantic River is a flood rolling in might and majesty toward the sea; the old mill in the mountain-pass grinds away, and I grope carefully in its dusky light, with a childish curiosity and wonder; and no huntsman "in at the death" so thrills with tremulous delight, as I, when drawing the bleating flock closer and closer, they stand huddled beneath the great buttonwood, at the sheep-washing. Mr. President, you never saw such a tree as stood before my grandmother's door; it was a mighty tree! — the noon-tide glory rested upon its head, its branches reached from the east to the west, and touched the morning and the evening; it was a wonderful tree, by mid-day or moonlight; beauty, grandeur, and strength had their abiding-place in it; in the winter, cold and bare, it stood shadowless, severe and unrelenting; in summer, it was benignant, kind, and merciful; it always had the same aspect with the heavens, and, like the heavens, seemed to have stood forever!

But the prosaic suggestions of mature years hint that all this is a sort of childish wonder and exaggeration. As I was riding into town this morning, and came upon the sandstone ridge which skirts our western borders, I quoted the words of the Preacher, "One generation goeth and another generation cometh, but the earth abideth forever." The mountains stood in front, familiar, unchanged. I remarked to my brother their permanence and rest, their familiar look and aspect, to which he replied, "They are not as big as they were." "Not as big as they were!" that tames me down to the fact that something is gone from all this outward world; commonplaces and mediocrity have usurped the place of wonder and beauty. A great religious poet has said it well: —

> "There was a time when meadow, grove, and stream,
> The earth, and every common sight,
> To me did seem
> Apparelled in celestial light, —
> The glory and the freshness of a dream.
> It is not now as it hath been of yore;
> Turn wheresoe'er I may,
> By night or day,
> The things which I have seen I now can see no more.

"The rainbow comes and goes,
And lovely is the rose;
The Moon doth with delight
Look round her when the heavens are bare;
Waters on a starry night
Are beautiful and fair;
The sunshine is a glorious birth, —
But yet I know, where'er I go,
That there hath passed away a glory from the earth."

But not more vivid to-day are the impressions of childhood senses, than the incidents of moral and intellectual life which cluster in the mild sunshine of recollection. I have been to school this morning in the old school-house, and relieved the weariness of those heavy, lagging hours by enterprise of trade and barter, with spelling, geography and arithmetic; 'twixt gusts of pedagogic vigilance, I have mixed a little practice in values, and swapped jack-knives with Silas Chapin, and paid him difference of string and pewter plummet — Silas Chapin, the best judge of a jack-knife or steel-trap of all the boys in District Number Ten! I have been to meeting, in the old meeting-house on the green, and waited patiently through hymn and prayer and sermon, only asking my father, When will the minister be done? And when that venerable man of God closed the Book, saying, "The remainder of this subject in the afternoon, and, in the mean time, may God bless his Word," I breathed a long breath; yet wondered why the good man spoke so contemptuously of the holy interval in the services of the Lord's house. To me it was no *mean time*, but the best time of all the day. There are faces here, too, at this board, a single glance from which kindles all that religious past into vivid light. There, before me, sits Deacon Sumner Sessions, who looks no older to me now than when in the old meeting-house he exercised his office of tithingman, and divided with equanimity, which I always wondered at, his reverent mind 'twixt the humble worship of Almighty God, and a holy frown on the boys. There is Deacon John Morris! Can I ever forget his trembling tenor? It struggles in my breast even now, and wakes a thousand reverent associations, as some sweet wind from heaven, — whence it cometh or whither it goeth we know not, — awakes a half-forgotten prayer; and there is John Newell, that god of song, whose right-hand, trembling in holy rhythm, swayed, as with a magician's wand, the multitudinous voices of the village choir.

Mr. President, my heart has leaped like a roe, this morning, at the promise of a visit to my grandmother's; and I have been compelled to correct my imagination by my judgment, for I verily thought I heard the squalling of the geese, sure harbinger of my near approach to her door! You will all forgive me for saying, that the judgment of my manhood puts no correction, and charges no error, to the reverent admiration with which my boyish mind looked on that venerable woman. How she loved me! What persuasion in her voice, what satisfaction in her kiss! O blessed ties of kindred blood! O heavenly grace of womanhood! What dignity! What urbanity! What discretion! What tender piety! If those mysterious influences which mingle in the make of men, descending from generation to generation, giving tone and color to thought and feeling, may be matter of gratitude to the Inspirer of our frame, I am grateful that the fountains of my life were set so near a heart in which gushed so gentle blood.

It is impossible, and it is hardly grateful, on an occasion like this, to thrust aside

those sentiments of filial regard which recollection awakens, and which press upon the mind with something of the authority of claim. Our fathers take their seats by our side whether we will or no; and that is indeed an unfilial heart that does not involuntarily give them room. I have counted one in my company that is not here. The century was a little too slow for him, and he could not wait. Mr. President, you knew my father. He was a man gifted in intellectual and moral powers above the ordinary measure of men; of limited and provincial experience, his mind showed rays of native light, such as enfolds the round sphere of truth. He was a century before his time, and he lacked the ingenuity to justify himself to the present. But he was never discouraged concerning God or man. He was one of the firmest believers, and one of the most ardent and invincible hopers I ever knew. He was almost a moral enthusiast, and in that fact is to be found the account of some of the most striking defects of his mind and character. He was a polemic in politics, morals, and religion. Never can I forget the sharp skirmishes and word-battles with neighbors before the open evening fire. His house was a natural resort for ministers, but he agreed with none of them; and his theological discussions were always a claim for a more wide-open and humane interpretation of the divine Goodness. Yet, notwithstanding all this difference and keen dissent, in a period less tolerant than the present, no man of God ever went out from beneath that roof without leaving his deep and heart-felt benediction. I can never lose the impress of his religious influences, though he was called a doubter by almost everybody. It seems to me that he had the finest appreciation of childhood of any man I ever saw; — his appreciation of young men was not so keen, through defect of education or limitation of experience. Can I ever forget the stories he told, the hymns he sung, with a voice like the month of June, and the lessons of love and good-will to all, which he enforced with such tender persuasion? O debt of filial love! — sweet burden of gratitude, from which my heart would never go free! My friends, I could not help this, and I know you will forgive me since there is nobody here but ourselves.

Natives of Wilbraham: What instinct has brought us here to-day, from afar, to commemorate the establishment of human society on these hills? It is the instinct most deeply rooted in man's nature, affirming that human society is the chief interest on earth; that, wherever human souls are spoken into being and the solitary set in families, there a thousand ties of earth and heaven centre, drawing toward the one Almighty providential purpose.

In swift review to-day, we have been through the records of those early beginnings of the fathers, made in such industry, frugality, and piety, as gives us all an honorable ancestral pride, and which a hundred years have matured to this degree of beauty and strength. Have we not cause for gratitude that our lot has been so happy, and that here each generation has been able to bequeath some better things to the generation that should come after, — thus making every man partaker of the power of humanity? We are surrounded to-day by those tokens of material, intellectual, moral, and religious growth, which, to the observer of man and his destiny, are the fairest objects on which the eye can rest, and the loftiest which the mind can contemplate. An intelligent industry has made these hills and plains a fit habitation for man. A wise regard for that knowledge which puts man in superiority to the powers around him, has placed within the reach of all, the means of intelligence; and those common sentiments of our nature which

give an upward aspect to human lot, inspired afresh by Christianity, have spread over all a sky of faith, and set many benignant stars of heavenly guidance. What do we need in the future but to be awakened to these? We want no new lights, so much as we need to feel the sun that flames above us! All human prosperity, all beauty and adorning of intelligence, and all providential guidance and grace are contained in these.

Our centennial comes amid the agonies of civil war, but let no man's heart, inspired with love of freedom, fail. The clear north wind will yet drive these clouds away, and the pure heavens will spread out over all the land, in which all are free. Then shall a new career begin for man on earth; for the civilization that has made us prosperous and happy here, on these hill-sides, shall be the common faith and sentiment of mankind.

Rev. Dr. Raymond: Mr. President, there is one man at the table whose voice we shall be glad to hear. It is true that he has already spoken elsewhere, but however copiously the Doctor may have poured himself out, he has always something left to say. I move, sir, that you call up the orator of the day, Rev. Dr. Stebbins.

"Dr. Stebbins, Dr. Stebbins," called out many voices.

The President: Doctor, you hear the call. It is loud and imperative. Let it be answered.

Dr. Stebbins responded as follows: —

Mr. President: I fear my too partial friend, Dr. Raymond, did not take counsel of the brotherhood and sisterhood at the other end of the tables, and that your own kindly heart has for once hazarded an infliction upon already weary ears, — for if these guests are as weary of listening to my voice as I am of using it, it long since ceased to be "music" to their ears. The very flattering expressions in which the Judge on my left (Judge Merrick) has been pleased to speak of my address and the willing and patient ear which you lent to it through two mortal hours of sweltering heat, can be accounted for in but one way, and that, — to these friends, innocent as infancy of antiquity and "vain genealogies," against too curiously prying into which the apostle warned all good Christians, — I will, with your permission, Mr. President, craving pardon of the apostle, explain. Our venerable and most worthy president, friends, is a type of a Wilbraham man. The best blood of the first families of Wilbraham is in his veins. Tidal sympathy and incorruptible integrity are the chief ingredients of that blood. For a quarter of a century no father in Hampden County lay down to die in disquiet lest his children should be uncared for or his widow defrauded or his estate wasted; for to the hands of our president, as Judge of Probate, he could confidently commit wife, child, estate, and know that all would be well; and never did suspicion breathe a syllable against his integrity anywhere; his tongue always spoke the warm word that was in his heart, and men listened with delight. These facts may seem somewhat remote from the point which I am to elucidate, but their appositeness and force will soon be seen by every attentive listener, and will fully vindicate their introduction, though somewhat trying to the modesty of my venerable friend and *kinsman*. For

be it known to all ye present, if any success has attended my words to-day, either in gratifying your curiosity or taste, either in instructing or delighting you, it is all, *all* due, *wholly* due, to the fact, that I have some blood which is common to his veins and mine, for my *great*-grandfather married his *grandfather's sister*. [Judge Morris, the president, interrupting, My grandfather's *cousin*.] What a taking off is that? Did ever ancestral pride receive a deadlier stab? What! so thin the blood! Good heavens, if in my poor watery veins such scattered drops can give such vital force and strength, what must not be the vigor and endurance of both soul and body of him in whose firm sinews and large heart it courses in equal portions? At four-score years the voice is clarion, and the step firm! The Bliss blood forever!

This thinning, this dilution of blood in me, renders it possible for me to make an apology, which otherwise I should hardly have ventured on. My friend, on my left, Rev. Dr. Russell, is responsible for all this day's deficiencies. He was called, by his good old mother, Wilbraham, to speak the word on her hundredth birthday; and naughty boy, as he never was before, he disobeyed his worthy parent. Good luck to him that he was so far off she could not lay her correcting hand upon him, — for our good mother was a diligent and devout reader of Scripture, and had an enviable faith in Solomon's system of family government, — as had he been within reach he would have performed certain saltatory feats which are not defined in works on dancing. [Laughter.]

The fact was just this, he would *not* mind; but I, with the vigor of the venerable mother's arm distinctly in my mind, did obey, but under difficulties. For the records did not reach me for more than three months after this older son was disobedient. It is no fault of the committee of arrangements, but *his* exclusively, that I should have done violence to facts and figures sometimes, but for the timely aid of my honored friend, the president of the day, and some of the vice-presidents.[1]

But you know, Mr. President, that it is of the nature of *this blood*, where there is anything to be done, to do it; when there is any call, to hear it; and I do not repent that I undertook the work, though you may, for I have seen how steadily our obscure town has improved in all that is most worthy and desirable.

Why, sir, in my school-days, hardly a boy had the presumption to study grammar, hardly a girl ventured on arithmetic. The first geography, with an atlas, was introduced in my day; and I well remember the amazement of the rest of the scholars when a boy ventured into vulgar fractions. I think I was the first teacher who used Colburn's Intellectual Arithmetic in town, and I think, by the twinkle of some eyes which I now see, that my first experiment, down in the woods near Mr. Cross's, is well remembered: — The boys sent out to run, to keep themselves warm; the girls going to the fire by classes, to keep from freezing; the splendid delight of the instantaneous conflagration of the old fireplace full of green white-birch wood, and the deep mortification of its as instantaneous extinguishment; the dropping of the pitch from the pine boards of the ceiling into the master's hair; the use of a dilapidated door for a black-board; and, above all, the discovery and uncovering of a nest of squirrels, which had gone into winter-quarters in the wall.

[1] Dr. Russell remarked, in his chair, that he had the best of reasons, which his mother accepted at once, when he gave them to her; one of which, and the only one which he need to name, was, that she had another son, Dr. Stebbins, who could do it better.

All these are fresh in memory. Now, what fine school-houses! what admirable teachers! The method of cultivation, and the amount of crops, have also changed for the better almost infinitely. The lean, lank, long-legged, long-haired cows and oxen of the early time would frighten even Pharaoh's lean kine. What a contrast to the fat, sleek, glossy herds of my friend, Paoli Lathrop, Esq., whom I see down the table, who has done enough for the improvement of stock, in the State, to satisfy any man's ambition but his own.

In all things, the town has improved. Fields, vehicles, tools, machines, apparel, houses, furniture, — all, all has changed, and for the better. The morals are better, the culture is better, the whole intellectual, moral, and religious nature is better. They are simply croakers who say that the old days were better than these days, old institutions better than modern ones. They *defame* their ancestors who say that they did not leave the world better than they found it. Can we here and now, met in honor of their memory, say that our fathers left a worse heritage to their sons than they found, or that they so demoralized their children that we have wasted and spoiled our inheritance? No, sir; no, sir.

I know there are some men who go through the world backwards; they never see the path before; they are always whining after the leeks and onions they have left; they never see the grapes and figs and olives of the land of promise; they *advance backward*, however, because the crowd presses them on. [Laughter.] They grumble, as they approach the land flowing with milk and honey, that they are forced away from the gnats and frogs. Were it not for the inexhaustible patience and mercy of the Infinite Father, they would never reach heaven. But he gently guides them as they *back along* up the straight and narrow way complaining that it is *cramped* and *steep*, — not capacious, as the old road, which was not only very broad and all the way down hill, but easy to walk in, as everybody went there. Still they *back* along up, touched gently now on this side, now on that, as they near the one or the other edge of the way, grumbling still at the new kind of light that beams upon them, and the lengthening days, till they are safe over the sapphire threshold, on the golden pavement, in the shadowless day. How busy and patient the good angels must be, for many days, in reconciling them to their new and strange condition!

Enough, Mr. President, more than enough. I beg pardon for occupying so much of your precious time, as the day is beginning to decline. I thank you all most cordially, from my very heart's core, for the flattering reception you have given my words this day. The infinite benediction rest upon you and your children evermore.

The band gave some stirring music.

The President: The hour has arrived at which this meeting should adjourn. The occasion has been one of rich enjoyment and instruction. May the civil war raging with such fury soon cease, and may our posterity never be called to rescue the altars of freedom from the pollution of treason.

Once more a vote was called for, and unanimously given, directing the committee of arrangements to obtain and print the address.

Dr. Stebbins: Mr. President, I move that this meeting adjourn to June 15th, 1963.

Judge Merrick: Mr. President, as I am sure I shall be under the necessity of being absent, and as my absence will cause little grievance to those who may attend, I second the motion of Dr. Stebbins.

The President: By virtue of my high office, the highest I ever held in my life, I declare this meeting adjourned to June 15th, 1963.

After many a hearty hand-shaking, and parting congratulations on the success which had attended the celebration, the multitude dispersed to their homes, with renewed respect for their ancestors, and with new vows to merit and win the respect of posterity.

It should be stated here as a conclusion of the history of the celebration, that the town voted, November, 1863, to have "five hundred copies of the Address printed for distribution among the families in town," and two hundred and fifty copies more were ordered by the Committee.

The following account of the celebration appeared in the *Springfield Daily Republican*, June 16, 1863: —

THE WILBRAHAM CENTENNIAL.

ADDRESS BY REV. RUFUS P. STEBBINS, D. D. — THE CROWD. — THE DINNER — THE SPEECHES.

Monday, June 15, was a memorable day in the annals of Wilbraham. As members of a scattered household return on thanksgiving day to festivities and joyous reunions around the paternal fireside, came the sons and daughters of Wilbraham, from Maine and from Minnesota, and from the States between, to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of their native town. All Wilbraham was out with go-to-meeting clothes on, to welcome the wanderers, and make the occasion pass pleasantly. And in this they were wholly successful, for it was a time of unbroken enjoyment, even to the few who chanced to be there while so unfortunate as to own some other town as a birthplace, and doubly enjoyable to those whose childhood was passed within the precincts of the quiet old town.

About eleven o'clock, the procession formed in front of the Congregational Church, and marched to Fiske Hall on the academy grounds, under the direction of Samuel M. Bliss, marshal of the day, and escorted by the Holyoke Brass Band. Here every available seat and standing-place was quickly appropriated, and the large audience, although in many instances crowded to uncomfortableness, remained quiet until the close of the exercises. Upon the platform were the oldest men in Wilbraham, and some of her returning sons, who declined being considered as guests. The exercises at the hall were begun by a prayer from Rev. John B. Skeele, of Wilbraham, after which Judge Morris, Sen., of this city, upon whom appropriately and gracefully fell the honors of the presiding officer, made a brief and happy speech, alluding to the occasion as a proud and joyous one, and welcoming

home the sons and the sons' sons of old Wilbraham, when he introduced the orator of the day, Rev. Rufus P. Stebbins, D. D., of Woburn.

In Dr. Stebbins' address, historical fact and impressive eloquence, minute detail and irresistible humor were admirably commingled. No greater compliment could be paid to the town and the occasion than that they were thought worthy of such an elaborate effort by so distinguished a speaker. Dr. Stebbins divided the history of the town into four periods, the first beginning with the time Nathaniel Hitchcock cleared, in 1731, his two acres, and lived there, with no neighbors nearer than Springfield to plague him, and closing with the setting off of the Springfield Mountains, June 16, 1741,—a period devoted principally to clearing in the north part of the town; the second period including the time the town was a precinct,—from 1741 to 1763,—when they were perfecting the arrangements for the settlement of the "worthy Noah Merrick," as their pastor; the third period extending from the incorporation of the town, in 1763, to 1782, when it was divided into parishes, and including the Revolutionary War; and the fourth from 1782 to the present time. The speaker reviewed the whole of these periods, adorning the smallest particulars in such beautiful and appropriate language that each became thereby much more interesting to the hearer. The peroration of the address was eloquent to a high degree, and closed with a noble apostrophe to coming generations to sustain the Christian manhood of their ancestors and the good name of Wilbraham. Dr. Stebbins spoke two hours and a half, and it is impossible, in so brief a space, to do justice to an address of such length and excellence. By a unanimous vote of the audience, a copy was requested for printing.

Turning now from this intellectual treat, the procession reformed and marched to the academy dining-hall, where had been made ample provision for the sustenance of the inner man. Grace was said by Rev. Dr. Raymond. After grace, the usual knife-and-fork chorus, with the accompanying pantomime, was enacted with a vigor which proved that the descendants of the old stock knew what to do with a good dinner. Rev. Mr. Peabody said grace after the meal, when Judge Morris called upon Judge Pliny Merrick, of Boston and of the Supreme Court, whom he introduced as a grandson of the first minister of Wilbraham. Judge Merrick paid a high eulogium to the oration and orator of the day, and alluded in fitting terms to his worthy ancestor. His brief but excellent speech was followed by the singing of the old ballad, the first composed in Wilbraham before the Revolution, of which a copy remains beginning,—

> "On Springfield mountains there did dwell
> A likely youth was known full well."

This was "lined off" according to the old style, and sung in Old Hundred by the audience, the old men and women joining with a gusto that would have been creditable in their grandchildren. The next speaker was Rev. Dr. Russell, of East Randolph, who made a few touching and beautiful remarks, revealing the grave side of the picture. Then came Rev. Horatio Stebbins, of Portland, Maine, and he spoke long and well, calling up reminiscences of the time when he went to church in a building, which, in an architectural point of view, was a cross between a Greek temple and a Yankee barn. A score of humorous and pathetic incidents were carelessly and admirably strung together, and with telling effect. The speaker,

in closing, alluded, in stirring words, to the duty of the hour, and urged all who heard him to stand nobly for the right. Rev. Dr. Stebbins of Woburn was last called upon, and while the target of several sharpshooters, proved his ability to return the true metal, and make a capital dinner-table speech, as well as an elaborate oration. At a late hour the assemblage adjourned to June 15, 1963.

And thus passed a bright and happy day to the natives of Wilbraham. Green be it ever in their memory!

The following letter from the Hon. George Merrick, grandson of the Rev. Noah Merrick, explains the cause of his absence from the celebration: —

South Glastenbury, Nov. 13, 1863.

Dear Sir: In answer to yours of the 10th, I would say that I intended to have been present at the celebration, but was prevented by an unfortunate mistake (in the date of the letter of invitation). Being the grandson of Noah Merrick, so intimately connected with the early history of the town, my absence would otherwise be inexcusable.

I should have been pleased to have met my former townsmen, many of whom were the descendants, and all the successors of those few sturdy emigrants, the founders of this beautiful town. How gratifying it is to know they would not even assume a name till they had laid broad and deep the foundation of their religious and educational institutions! We know little of their trials and hardships, — of how many of what we call necessaries and conveniences they denied themselves that they might enjoy the ordinances of God's house. How interesting the occasion of the assemblage of that little band of six or seven church-members under an oak, to set apart one of their number to administer to them in holy things. In common with other towns of New England, these pilgrims introduced a new phase in civilization, in the system of free schools which they established, which now are the pride and glory of our land. They had no conception of the consequences of their work, — that while they were providing for their wants, they formed the nucleus of a mighty republic, destined to be bounded only by oceans. Is not the hand of Providence plainly discernible in these primitive operations of our fathers? These glorious fruits of their labor they have transmitted, as a rich legacy, to us, in trust for us to cherish, and in like manner to leave unimpaired to those that come after us. The themes growing out of our centennial celebration are exciting; but without indulging further thoughts, I offer these as the only tribute in my power to that interesting occasion.

Very truly yours, &c.,

GEORGE MERRICK.

Rev. Rufus P. Stebbins, d. d.

A. p. 19.

EVIDENCE OF THE RELINQUISHMENT OF THE CLAIM OF THE INDIANS TO THE TERRITORY WEST OF THE MOUNTAINS, FOUND IN THE OFFICE OF REGISTRY OF DEEDS OF HAMPDEN COUNTY.

An evidence of the purchase of lands at Freshwater River, taking in the medowes on both sides the River, as also from the lands from the five mile pond Eastward to y^e^ mountaines & so northward to Chickuppe River, being purchases fro y^e^ Indians Wequaugan Wawapaw & Wequampo: by & for y^e^ Town of Springfil^d^.

These presents testify that the Indian called Wequaugan, formerly called Wrutherna & the Indian called Wawapaw formerly called Noiapompolan in consideration of the Sume of One Hundred & twenty fathom of Wampam to them in hand paid, And that the Indian called Wequompo in consideration of sixty fathom of Wampam to him in hand paid have given granted bargained & sold, And by these p^e^sents Doe fully clearly & absolutely give, grante bargain & sel vnto Elizur Holyoke, George Coulton Benjamin Cooley, Samuel Marshfield & Anthony Dorchester, for the vse & behoofe of the Town of Springfield certaine tracts of Land Vpland Medowes and Swamps hereafter mentioned & described. That is to say, the said Wequaugan & Wawapaw first acknowledging that their Ancestor^s^ Did sel vnto M^r^ William Pynchon late of Springfield, for the vse & behoofe of the said Town of Springfield a good Portion or tracts of Lands lying on the East side of the River Quinecticut (& by the said River) that is to say, by the River, along from the lower end of the (medow, called by the Indians Massacksic & by the English called the) Long meadow vp to Chickuppe River. And in breadth Eastward for al that Length about as far from the River Quinecticat, as the five mile pond w^ch^ lyes by the Bay path; Concerning w^ch^ Tract of Land the said Wequaugan & Wawapaw Doe for themselves & their Successors, for the vse & behoofe of the Inhabitants of Springfield, forever quit al right Title Interest Claime & Demand in & to al the said Tract of Land before described. And the Tract of Land w^ch^ the said Wequaugan & Wawapaw Do hereby Sel as aforesaid Lyeth partly by & adjoineth to the South end & East side of the Tract of Land above described (w^ch^ they acknowledg was sold to the said M^r^ William Pynchon as aforesaid) That is to say, All the Lands, w^ch^ lie w^th^in the bounds hereafter mentioned. And therefore the South bounds thereof, is the Riveret called by the Indians Asnuntuel (& by the English Called ffreshwater River, or ffreshwater brooke) & soe from the mouth of that Riveret vizt. from Connecticut or Quinecticut Riv^r^ the bounds Runs up the said Riveret to the medows therevpon & from thence vp the said Riveret, the bounds takes in al the medows on both sides of ffreshwater River or brookes that Run Jnto it to the vpland on the Southerly side of such medows: & at the Place where Freshwater River or ffreshwater brooke turns Northerly, the South bounds extend Eastward to the Riveret called Scantuck, vizt. the place by the fals, where the path that leades to Pequit or Moheage goes over that Riveret & fro thence the s^d^ River Scantucke is the General bounds of the Lands contained in this Purchase, vizt. vp to the Place where the said River or Riveret Scantuck comes down from the Mountaines, yet Al the medows on both sides of Scantuck River, are likewise contained in the Purchase, And from the Place where Scantuck River comes down

fro the mountaines, the foot of the mountaines is the Easterly bounds, vp as far Northerly til it meet with the Lands purchased of the said Wequompo: & the West bounds or border are the Lands formerly sold to mr William Pynchon late of Springfield as aforesd And the said Wequaugan & Wawapaw Doe for ymselves & their successors to the vse and behoofe of the Inhabitants of Springfield for Ever quit al claime to & al right title & Interest in any of Lands abovementioned & hereby sold, & which are contained wthin the bounds abovementioned. Except liberty of fishing & hunting, which they Reserve to themselves, yet not to dammify the English thereby. At wch tract of Lands wch are Contained wthin the bounds above mentioned, together wth al the profit and comoditys thereupon or thervnto belonging, the said Elizur Holyoke, George Coulton, Benjamin Cooley Samuel Marshfield & Anthony Dorchester for the vse & behoofe service & imploymt of the Towne of Springfield (& not otherwise) are to have hold & Enjoy ymselves & their heires for Ever wthout let, trouble or molestation from the sd Wequaugan Wawapaw or any other: And the tract of Land hereby sold by Wequompo are such as are contained wthin the bounds & limits hereafter mentioned & Described, That is to say, The South bounds thereof are the lands before mentioned, sold by Wequaugan & Wawapaw; And Eastward the Foot of the mountaines are the bounds thereof; & Northerly Chickuppe River is the bounds thereof; And the Westerly bounds thereof are the lands above mentioned formrly sold to Mr William Pynchon as aforesaid. At wch Tract of Land soe bounded & described together wth all the profits & comoditys thervpon or thervnto belonging the said Elizur Holyoke, George Coulton, Benjamin Cooley, Samuel Marshfield, & Anthony Dorchester for the vse & behoofe, service & Employmt of the Towne of Springfield, & not otherwise, are to have hold & enjoy for themselves & their heires for Ever, wthout let trouble or molestation from the said Indian called Wequompo, or any other: And the said Wequompo Doth for himselfe & his successors for the vse, behoofe & benefit of the Inhabitants of Springfield for Ever quit al claim to & al his right, Title & Interest in any of the Lands above mentioned to be sold & wch are Contained wthin the bounds above expressed: Except liberty of Fishing & Hunting wch he reserveth: And it is the intent of these prsents That ye sd Elizur Holyoke George Coulton, Benjamin Cooley, Samuel Marshfield & Anthony Dorchester themselves and their heires for ever by virtue of these Presents are not to have any benefit or Priviledge in the Lands, otherwise than as they are or shal be Inhabitants of the Town of Springfield or otherwise, then in General in & wth the Town, or otherwise then they have legal Right therein, or may be granted by the Town, for that the Lands sold by the Indians above named, are so sold for & to ye onely vse & behoofe of the Inhabitants of Springfield & to be wholy at their disposure.

Febr 4th. 1678. Being desired at a Town meeting in Springfield to declare what I know concerning the Purchase of the Lands abovesaid; I doe declare and attest as followeth viz: That

The Indians above named, viz. Wequaugan & Wawapaw & Wecombo the true & proper owners of al the Lands above mentioned Did sel and by sale forever passe away al the Land above mentioned to Mr Elizur Holyoke, Geo. Colton, Benja. Cooly, Saml Marshfield & Anthony Dorchester for the vse & behoofe of the Town

of Springfield: The bargain being made in my prsence, and as I remember It was in the yeer 1674 or thereabouts; I was often w^th^ y^m^ in Treaty about it, w^ch^ at last came to a conclusion, to be as abovementioned, the payment also for the Lands as above exp^r^ss^ed^, passing through my hands to the Indians, which they Gladly accepted, & did willingly own the sale to me after this Deed was Drawne, they comeing particularly one at a tyme to me to subscribe it, when I told them they must come altogether, the want of which was the onely obstruction, for they often severaly acknowledged the sale, & this writing to be according to their mind, and meaning. Also testifying their Readines to come altogether & subscribe, w^ch^ as they promised, so doubtles they would have done but that the Jndian Warre happening in the year 1675, They w^th^ other Jndians were drove away, before which time they made the above express^d^ Sale, And I do declare they did come personally & owne & acknowledg the conveighance & sale of the Land above mentioned, as above exp^r^ssed.

This then done & by y^e^ Indians Wequaugan & Wawapaw & Wecombo owned & acknowledged Before me

JOHN PYNCHON, *Assistant.*

This entred these Records for the County of Hampshire July 12th 1679 as Attest

JOHN HOLYOKE, *Recorder.*

I regret that I have not been able to find the original deed conveying the land east of the line indicated by this deed. There are many traditions respecting the claim of a blind Indian to the territory of the town, and of some compensation made to him to liquidate it. I can find no sufficient evidence to render the tradition reliable as a fact. I have come to distrust traditions.

The following is a copy of the vote of the town of Springfield by which the land of the "Outward Commons" was allotted. The copy from which I print was made a century after the vote was passed: —

Feb'y 3d, 1684. (1685 as we reckon).

Att a General Town Meeting.

Further forasmuch as the additional bounds or Grant of Lands to this Town by the Hono^rd^ Gen^rl^ Co^rt^ May last 1684, was & is to the present Inhabitants & proprietor^s^ of Springfield their Heirs & assigns forever, Many of whom are desirous of & moving for their Share in s^d^ lands, upon w^ch^ w^th^ other Considerations Inducing, It was at this Meeting Voted & Concluded that the Eastern line or bound of the plantatation of Springfield being run & Stated from Hadley Town bound on the North to Enfield Town bound on the South, Then all the land from the s^d^ Eastern line for four miles westward toward the s^d^ Springfield from both the Northern & Southern bounds is hereby Granted & agreed to be laid out in Proprietys to Each p^r^sent Inhabitant & proprietor his Heirs & assigns forever his due proportion, & also the lands on the west Side of the Great River from John Riley's Brook Northward to Northampton bounds, & to Westfield bounds westward. Also the

land from the head of the Brook beyond Thomas Coopers that runs into three mile Brook unto Southfield Southward & unto Westfield westward be alike distributed to Each Inhabitant & proprietor their Heirs & assigns forever; & in special it was Voted that three hundred acres at the least be granted to the Ministry on the East side the River out of the land hereby first Voted to be laid out as aforesd, & that one hundred & fifty acres be to the School out of the same & that the ministry & the School have their proportions in the lands on the west side of the Great River. As also that or Reverend Teacher Mr. Pelatiah Glover have his proportion in the Lands hereby agreed to be laid out on both Sides of the Great River. It was further Voted & agreed that the lands on the East bounds of the Town Shall be laid out in three Divisions & that the lands on the west side the gr't River shall be laid out in two divisions to Each man his proportions. It was also Voted that these divisions to each man shall be by Casting of lotts, & that division by Casting lots, be by as many lots or Casting of lots as there be divisions. It was further Voted that the first lot begin on the Northerly part of the land to be divided; also it was further Voted that these divisions be by Estates and poles, & that the poles be Esteemed in the Rate at twelve pounds pr pole & that all Male Children under age be Valued as rateable polls viz. 12£ pr pole. It was further Voted & Concluded that these Lands when divided while Common or Unfenced shall be Common or free to all the Inhabitants for Grass, herbage & Timber & free from Rates till Improved & then Rated only as Improved, & that Jno. Holyoke draw a list of Estates & poles of the Inhabitants for the Measurer.

The following is a copy of the allotment, made from the records of the town of Springfield. There was one division, — the first, — lying wholly in the present town of Ludlow, north of this second division, which was mostly in what is now the town of Wilbraham.

A LIST OF THE LOTTS IN THE SECOND OR MIDDLE DIVISION OF THE OUTWARD COMMONS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE GREAT RIVER IN SPRINGFIELD ARE AS FOLLOWS, VIZ.:—

No.	Rods.	Ft.	In.
1 Samuel Marshfield	18	2	6
2 Collo. Pynchon	133	15	9
3 David Throw	1	5	..
4 John Warner	11	1	7
5 Samuel Stebbins	9	11	9
6 James Stephenson	1	4	1
7 Benjamin Knowlton	5	11	..
8 Joseph Stebbins	15	12	..
9 Obadiah Miller, Junr.		8	9
10 Ebenezer Jones	6	7	10
11 Elnakim Cooley	11	1	6
12 Jonathan Burt, Junr.	5	13	7
13 Widow Bedortha	4	3	4
14 Increase Sikes, Junr.	10	8	
15 John Burt, Senr.	5	4	10
16 James Petty	4	6	
17 Quartermaster Colton	25	7	3
18 James Munn	1	12	5
19 Joseph Ely	1	5	
20 Widow Sikes, Senr.	9	6	6
21 John Stewart	7	7	10
22 Joseph Cooley	5	14	6
23 Jonathan Morgan	5	10	1
24 Jonathan Taylor's Estate	5	11	..
25 John Holyoke	26	4	
26 Henry Rogers	9	8	8
27 John Colton	1	5	..
28 John Laub	17	10	2
29 John Miller	6	5	..
30 School Lot	18	9	..
31 Revd. Mr. Glover	21	8	9
32 Thomas Miller	8	4	6
33 Lazarus Miller	2	6	6
34 Nathaniel Pritchard	8	1	11
35 Henry Gilbert	4	2	..
36 Samul Bliss, Junr.	10	11	6
37 Thomas Taylor	1	10	3
38 Ministry lott	17	4	..
39 Victory Sikes	1	11	1
40 Thomas Stebbins	5	10	6
41 Thomas Gilbert	5	8	4
42 Obadiah Cooley, Senr.	20	5	8
43 James Warriner, Senr.	20	..	8
44 Daniel Cooley	13	9	5
45 Nathaniel Munn	3	8	10
46 Peter Swink	3	13	3
47 Samuel Bliss, Senr.	18	3	9
48 John Bliss	18	9	..
49 Samuel Miller	5	7	6
50 Nicholas Rust	7	..	..
51 Nathaniel Sikes, Senr.	4	..	9
52 Goodwife Foster's Estate	5	8	1
53 Edward Stebbins	5	4	5
54 Henry Chapin	19	14	..
55 Samuel Jones	3	13	..
56 Joseph Bedortha	9	6	..
57 St. Abel Wright	16	14	4
58 Wido. Parsons	19	6	8
59 John Scott	7	9	7
60 Widow Beamon	8	12	..

No.		Rods.	Ft.	In.
61	John Clarke	2	13	11
62	Thomas Swentman	2	10	..
63	John Clark's E tate	6	11	2
64	John Dumbleton	11	4	3
65	Joseph Ashley	14	11	4
66	Obadiah Miller, Junr.	2	15	3
67	John Kheep's Estate	6	5	..
68	Philip Mattoon	5	11	..
69	St. John Hitchcock	22	2	4
70	David Lambard	8	1	11
71	John Withers	1	5	..
72	Joseph Marks	1	5	..
73	Daniel Beamon	1	5	..
74	John Norton	8	3	8
75	Thomas Day, Senr.	16	3	5
76	Edward Foster	9	7	4
77	Samuel Bedortha	4	14	3
78	Samuel Osburn	1	15	6
79	Jonathan Ball	11	13	..
80	Samuel Ferry, Senr.	9	6	11
81	Isaac Colton	13	3	3
82	David Morgan	9	13	6
83	John Barber	..	11	4
84	James Osburn	2	5	2
85	Ensn. Cooley Estate	6	9	10
86	Jonathan Ashley	14	11	4
87	John Bagg's Children	6	2	5
88	James Barker	5	4	..
89	Joseph Crowfoot's Estate	7	14	..
90	Deacn. Benja. Parsons	12	6	7
91	Capt. Thomas Colton	10	13	8
92	Samuel Ely, Senr.	11	7	9
93	Isaac Morgan	..	13	1

No.		Rods.	Ft.	In.
94	Joseph Thomas	9	5	2
95	Samuel Bliss, 3d.	2	14	4
96	John Dorchester	22	2	9
97	Joseph Leonard	14	8	9
98	Luke Hitchcock, Senr.	10	7	6
99	Wido. Munn	2	10	..
100	Benjamin Cooley	7	3	6
101	Wido. Riley	4	13	10
102	Abel Leonard	6	3	9
103	Benjamin Stebbins, Senr.	5	4	10
104	James Dorchester, Senr.	12	11	..
105	Japhet Chapin	23	2	1
106	Thomas Merrick, Senr.	18	15	7
107	Thomas Jones	1	10	..
108	Samuel Owen	9	6	11
109	John Harmon	9	13	..
110	Rowland Thomas	12	6	7
111	William Brooks	..	8	9
112	Benjamin Leonard	10	13	3
113	Josiah Leonard	10	10	7
114	Charles Ferry, Senr.	14	10	11
115	Wido. Horton	19	2	9
116	Miles Morgan	10	1	10
117	Deacn. Jona. Burt	12	6	7
118	Richard Wait	1	5	..
119	Thomas Cooper	18	7	3
120	John Crowfoot	3	8	..
121	Nathaniel Bliss, Senr.	9	8	10
122	Samuel Ball	12	4	..
123	Nathaniel Burt, Senr.	23	..	4
124	James Taylor, Senr.	6	7	3
125	Ephraim Colton, Senr.	15	10	8

A LIST OF THE LOTTS OF THE OUTWARD COMMONS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE GREAT RIVER IN SPRINGFIELD, ARE AS FOLLOWS, VIZ. THIRD DIVISION:—

No.		Rods.	Ft.	In.
1	Thomas Taylor	1	10	3
2	David Throw	1	5	..
3	Jonathan Morgan	5	10	1
4	Widow Beamen	8	12	..
5	Obadiah Cooley, Senr.	20	5	8
6	Joseph Thomas	9	5	2
7	Japhet Chapin	23	2	1
8	Benjamin Stebbins, Senr.	5	4	10
9	John Warner	11	1	7
10	Nathaniel Munn	3	8	10
11	Thomas Cooper	18	7	3
12	Victory Sikes	1	11	1
13	Wm. Brooks	..	8	9
14	John Crowfoot	3	8	..
15	Rev. Mr. Glover	21	8	9
16	Samuel Jones	3	13	..
17	Sr. Abel Wright	16	14	4
18	John Scott	7	9	7
19	Miles Morgan	10	1	10
20	Joseph Cooley	5	11	6
21	Jonathan Taylor's Estate	5	11	..
22	John Norton	8	3	8
23	Thomas Gilbert	5	8	4
24	Deacon Burt	12	6	7
25	Ebenezer Jones	6	7	10
26	Joseph Bedortha	9	6	..
27	Nathaniel Pritchard	8	1	11
28	Edward Stebbins	5	4	5
29	Jonathan Ashley	14	11	4
30	Ensn. Cooley's Estate	6	9	10
31	Joseph Marks	1	5	..
32	Benjamin Cooley	7	3	6
33	Thomas Swetman	2	10	..
34	James Osburn	2	5	2
35	John Bliss	18	9	..
36	Joseph Stebbins	15	12	..
37	Obadiah Miller, Senr.	8	8	9
38	Lazarus Miller	2	6	6
39	Samuel Ely, Senr.	11	7	9
40	John Stewart	7	7	10
41	Widow Bedortha	4	3	4
42	Samuel Ball	12	4	..
43	Samuel Marshfield	18	2	6
44	John Lamb	17	10	2
45	Samuel Terry	9	6	11
46	Thomas Merrick, Senr.	18	15	7
47	John Harmon	9	13	..
48	Joseph Ashley	14	11	4
49	Increase Sikes, Senr.	10	8	..
50	John Barber	..	11	4

No.		Rods.	Ft.	In
51	Lt. Hitchcock	22	2	3
52	Peter Swink	3	13	4
53	Samuel Bliss, 3d	2	14	4
54	Nicholas Rust	7	..	..
55	Samuel Miller	5	7	6
56	Charles Ferry, Senr.	14	10	11
57	David Morgan	9	13	6
58	Isaac Morgan	..	13	1
59	Benjamin Knowlton	5	11	..
60	James Dorchester, Senr.	12	11	..
61	Philip Mattoon	5	11	..
62	John Keep's Estate	6	5	..
63	Widow Horton	19	2	9
64	Ministry Lott	37	4	..
65	Joseph Ely	1	5	..
66	Nathaniel Sikes, Sen.	4	..	9
67	David Lambart	8	1	11
68	Thomas Day, Senr.	16	3	5
69	James Stephenson	1	4	1
70	James Petty	4	6	..
71	Capt. Thomas Colton	10	13	8
72	John Clark's Estate	6	11	2
73	Isaac Colton	13	3	3
74	John Leonard	11	8	9
75	John Dorchester	22	2	9
76	James Taylor, Senr.	6	7	3
77	John Withers	1	5	..
78	Eliakim Cooley	11	1	6
79	Widow Riley	4	13	10
80	Henry Rogers	9	8	8
81	Col. Pynchon	133	15	9
82	Samuel Bedortha	4	14	3
83	Thomas Milder	8	4	6
84	Daniel Cooley	13	9	5
85	John Baggs Children	6	2	5
86	Samuel Osburn	1	15	6
87	George Colton	25	7	3
88	Henry Gilbert	4	2	..
89	John Miller	4	2	..
90	Dea. Benj. Parsons	6	5	..
91	Edward Foster	9	7	4
92	Nathaniel Burt, Senr.	23	..	4
93	Sergt. Hitchcock	10	7	6
94	Thomas Jones	1	12	..
95	Nathaniel Bliss	9	8	10
96	John Burt, Senr.	5	4	10
97	Richard Wait	1	5	..
98	Widow Sikes	9	6	6
99	James Munn	1	12	5
100	Jonathan Ball	11	13	..

No.	Rods.	Ft.	In.	No.	Rods.	Ft.	In.
101 Samuel Owen	9	6	11	114 School Lott	18	9	..
102 Josiah Leonard	10	10	7	115 Widow Munn	2	10	..
103 Samuel Stebbins	9	11	9	116 Samuel Bliss, Junr.	10	14	6
104 Samuel Bliss Senr.	18	3	9	117 Daniel Beamon	1	5	..
105 Abel Leonard	6	3	9	118 Jonathan Burt, Junr.	5	13	7
106 James Barker	5	4	..	119 Mr. Holyoke	26	4	..
107 Widow Parsons	10	6	8	120 Rowland Thomas	12	6	7
108 Thomas Stebbins	5	10	6	121 John Colton	1	5	..
109 James Warriner, Senr.	20	..	8	122 John Clarke	2	13	11
110 Ephraim Colton, Senr.	15	10	8	123 Joseph Crowfoot's Estate	7	14	..
111 Benjamin Leonard	10	13	3	124 John Dumbleton	11	4	3
112 Henry Chapin	19	14	..	125 Obadiah Miller, Junr.	2	5	3
113 Good[n] Foster's Estate	5	8	1				

NOTES ON THE ABOVE SCHEDULE OF ALLOTMENTS.—The south lot of the Second Division was bounded by the south line of Dea. Moses Burt's farm. On the south of this lot, No. 125, was the overplus land of Division Second, eighty-two rods wide, then commenced lot No. 1, of the Third Division. I have not been able to locate all the present farms on these lots, as I did not know the width of all the farms. I will, however, give such a clew to their location that their owners will easily be able to determine their original lots. Commence on the south line of Dea. Burt's farm, and reckon north. It will be seen by the Schedule that the lot of Ephraim Colton, Sen. is the south lot, 125th, and is 15, 10, 8, in width. Count north till any particular farm is reached by adding the width of the lots and comparing them with the width of the farms. John M. Merrick's farm includes most of lots 105, 106, 107. The first road to Stony Hill, which crossed the street not far from the present Boarding House, was on the north side of 95. The farm of John Wesley Bliss includes 59-73; Mr. Jones's, 56-58; Mr. Merrill's, 48-55; Mr. Bliss's, 43-47; Mrs. John Bliss's, 39-42; Mr. Warren Collins's, 38, the north ministry lot; Mr. Baldwin's, 31-37; Mr. Collins's, 22-30, or to Chicopee River. These estimates are only approximately correct, as I do not know the *exact* width of these farms.

The south boundary of the Third Division was in John W. Langdon's farm; the rest of his farm is on the overplus land. John W. Langdon's farm includes lots 121-125; Mr. Chaffee's, 115-120; Ralph S. and Silas Chapin's, 110-114, including the south school lot; Mr. Pease's, 108-110; Mr. ——, 105-107; Mr. Rockwood's, 102-104; Mr. —— 81-101; Mr. Stebbins's, 82-88, on the north side of which is one of Surveyor Newbury's boundary stones; Mr. Isham's and Mr. West's, 81, — this is Col. Pynchon's lot: Mr. Shepherd's, 75-80; Mr. Moseley's, 74-75; Mr. Leach's, 65-73; Mr. Session's 59-64, including the south ministry lot; Mr. Stebbins's, 55-58; Mr. Pease's, 49-51; Mr. Hitchcock's, 44-48; Mr. Cross's, 43-32. These, like the other locations, are only approximations.

All the farms named are on the main road, west of the mountains. Persons living in other parts of the town, who are due east or west of the farms named, will be on the same lots.

B. p. 26.

INDIAN NAME OF WILBRAHAM.

I find that traditions differ respecting the Indian name of the town. Dr. Merrick, in his MS. address, delivered 1831, and which was deposited with the town clerk, says it was "Manseorus," — if I have correctly deciphered the very illegible word in the address, — which he says is supposed to mean "Mountains." This is far from true. The Indian word for mountain is "Wachush," hence "Wachusett," the High Mountain, in Worcester County, and Massachusetts, the name of the State. The Hon. George Merrick, of East Glastenbury, Conn., son of Dr. Merrick, writes me that the Indian name was "Minnechaug," meaning "Berry Land." I have adopted the latter as being probably correct.

The following dates of the time the settlers came here, before the Precinct was incorporated, are obtained mostly from Clark [Samuel] Warner's record of births and deaths. It can be considered as only approximately accurate, as a birth may not have occurred until sometime after settlement, or may have taken place in Springfield Street, as we know was sometimes the case, where better accommodations could be furnished the sick : —

1731–4.	Nathaniel Hitchcock.	1731–4.	Daniel Warner.
"	Noah Alvord.	"	Nathaniel Warriner

1734.	Moses Burt.	1739.	David Mirick.
1735.	Samuel Warner, 2d.	"	Thomas Mirick, 2d.
"	Samuel Stebbins.	1740.	Benjamin Wight.
"	David Mirick.	"	David Warriner.
1736.	David Jones.	"	David Chapin, Jr.
"	Abel Bliss.	"	Isaac Brewer.
"	Daniel Lamb.	"	Moses Bartlett.
1737.	Aaron Parsons.	"	Nathaniel Bliss, 2d.
"	Daniel Parsons.	"	Henry Wright.
"	Cornelius Webb.	"	Thomas Glover.
1739.	Benjamin Warriner.	"	Joseph Sikes.

MARRIAGES OF EARLY SETTLERS.

Nathaniel Hitchcock to Hannah Taylor, of Hadley, March 28, 1730.
David Chapin to Mindwell Holton, Northampton, May 8, 1730.
Daniel Warner to Jerusha Hitchcock, June 9, 1731.
Benoni Atchinson to Jemima Bartlett, May 2, 1732.
Daniel Cadwell to Mary Warriner, May 4, 1732.
Caleb Stebbins to Elizabeth Warriner, November 23, 1732.
Moses Burt to Hannah Warriner, January 11, 1733.
Nathaniel Warriner to Margaret Mirrick, March 1, 1733.
Thomas Mirick 3d to Eunice Stebbins, March 26, 1733.
Nathaniel Bliss to Priscilla Burt, September 25, 1733.
Stephen Stebbins to Sarah Bliss, October 9, 1733.
Samuel Stebbins to Mary Knowlton, March 20, 1734.
David Mirick to Mary Colton, December 7, 1734.
Joseph Brooks to Mary Sikes, November 8, 1734.
Daniel Lamb to Martha Ashley, December 19, 1734.
Daniel Warner Jr. to Mary Gilling, July 17, 1735.
Abel Bliss to Jemima Chapin, January 16, 1736.
Isaac Brewer to Mary Bliss, April 22, 1736.
Thomas Mirick Jr. to Mary Warner, May 10, 1738.
Phineas Chapin to Bethiah Chapin, February 1, 1739.
David Chapin to Rachel Lumbard, May 3, 1739.
Moses Bartlett to Miriam Knowlton, April 14, 1739.
Jonathan Ely to Esther Chapin, 1740.
Joseph Sikes to Hannah Wright, 1742.
William King to Jemima Bliss, June 11, 1742. Published.
Abner Chapin to Abigail Warner, November 29, 1742. Published.
Aaron Stebbins to Mary Wright, December 4, 1742. Published.

REWARDS FOR KILLING INJURIOUS BIRDS AND ANIMALS, OFFERED BY SPRINGFIELD. Page 21.

1741, March 10. "Voted that there be allow^{d} to any Person or Persons Inhabitants of Springfield, that shall kill any of the Particular Creatures Hereafter named, for Each Creature so killed viz. for wood Chucks or Ground Raccoons Nine pence, Black birds for old ones 2d young ones 1d Each, Crows six pence

Each and after the Rate of 4d a Doz^{n} for all Black Birds Eggs that shall be found after this vote * * * and that the Person or Persons shall not be Entitled to any Reward for killing any of the Creatures as afores^{d} or Getting Eggs as afores^{d} unless they Produce a Certificate under the hands of some or one of the Persons hereafter named viz John Stebbins 2d Samuel Terry Jona Chapin Jun^{r} Benj^{e} Horton Jun^{r} Joseph Ball *Samuel Warner* 2d, Jedediah Bliss Timothy Nash John Ely 2d John Ely 3d *Thos. Morgan* Ebenezer Cook John Leonard Jun^{r} & Tho. Taylor, of the number of Each Creature killed as afores^{d} and of the number of Eggs Produced to them or Either of them, Wood Chucks Ear to be Cut off and Crows and Black Birds to have their heads Cutt off and the Eggs to be broken and so to be Certified by them or Either of them."

1742, Dec. 9. "Granted to Daniel Parsons Jun^{r} 10s Lawfull money for a Bear killed by him Las Summer for old Tenor £2." — *Records of Springfield.*

There is no record that a "wild cat" was ever killed or seen in the "Outward Commons."

I give below the lettering on the gravestones of Elizabeth Cockrill, the first person buried in town. Samuel Warner, her brother-in-law, at whose house she died, "tho' not a stone man he got two flat stones and engraved her name, and the time of her death, and that was the first grave. Tho' I knew of the stones, yet they were so covered with moss that they could not be read; I got the moss swept off and painted, so that now it is legible." — *Dr. Merrick's Address.*

HEADSTONE.

E. C. IS

the FIrST

THAT IS

LAId HEAR

FOOTSTONE.

HeAr Ly^{s} the

Body oF ELisAb

eth Coc k ril Wo

Dyed AprIL y^{e} 26

1741 EAG 39

C. p. 32.

APPROPRIATIONS MADE BY SPRINGFIELD TO FURNISH PREACHING TO THE "MOUNTAINS."

I find in the records of Springfield that the following appropriations were made for preaching at the "Mountains": —

January 3, 1739. "Granted to y^e^ People of y^e^ mountains for y^e^ procuring preaching 10 Sabbaths Twenty shillings pr Sabbath provided they do not exceed Teen Sabbaths."

December 12, 1739 "Granted to the People at the mountains in case they procure Preaching this winter Twenty shillings pr. Sabbath not exceeding Twelve Sabbaths the money to be paid to David Mirick when Due."

December 9, 1740. "Granted to the People at y^e^ Mountains to procure Preaching there Twenty Shillings pr. Sabbath not exceeding Twelve Sabbaths and to be paid David Mirick as it becomes Due."

For three winters, therefore, our fathers were saved the painful journey, in cold and snow, of nine miles, to hear preaching. I have been unable to learn who preached for them. If there is any clew to it, the papers of "David Mirick" must contain it.

VOTE OF LONG MEADOW TO PERMIT THE "EAST PART TO BE SET OFF AS A PRECINCT."

"At a Precinct meeting March 10 : 1740
Voted that the several persons and families belonging to the Precinct of Long meadoes settled on the East part of Spring field Call^d^ the outward Commons : be set off a Distinct precinct for the benefit of Gosple ministry and other Priviliges belonging to precincts : Whensoever the Honour^d^ Generall Court of the Province of the masachusets Bay shall think fit and proper upon application made to them.
a true copie attest P^r^. JONATHAN ELY Precinct Clerk."
— *Records of General Court.*

Vote of the First Precinct of Springfield to permit the "Mountains" to be a separate Precinct : —

"March 21, 1739. Where As the People Caled the Inhabitants of the mountains on the East Side of the Great River in Springfield have a desire to be set off from the Eldist Precinct in S^d^ Town as a distinct Precinct for the ministry The Eldist Precinct in S^d^ Town Doe therefore by a Vote Signifie theire Willingness that s^d^ Inhabitants Should be Set of as a Distinct Precinct for the ministry as soon as the General Court shall think Propper so to Doe." — *Records in the City Clerk's Office of Springfield.*

The following is the appointment of "Thomas Mirick 2d and Abel Bliss to Prefer a Petition to the General Court to be set off as a Precinct" : —

"We the Subscribers who are settlers on the Lands Called the Outward Commons Dwelling Some in the Second and Some in the Third Division of the Said Comons In Springfield on the East Side of Connecticutt River do Hereby appoint and Impower Thomas Mirick 2d & Abel Bliss Settlers on the said Place to Prefer a Petition to the Next General Court that we with our Lands and theirs together with all the Lands within Said Divisions being In the whole in length Eight Miles and in weadth four Miles May be Set of a Separate and Distinct Precinct and that all the Lands Lying in said Divisions may be taxed at Such Rate as the General Court shall think Proper the better to Enable them to Settle a Minister Build a Meeting House and other Publick charges that so we may be Enabled to Maintain the Gospel among us. Witness our Hands May 7th 1740.

Joseph Sikes,	David Mirick,
Daniel Lamb,	David Warriner,
Daniel Parsons,	David Jones,
Benjamin Wright,	Isaac Brewer,
Henry Wright,	Samuel Warner, 2d,
Thomas Glover,	Aaron Parsons,
Cornelius Weeb,	Nathaniel Hithcock,
Daniel Warner,	Nathaniel Warriner,
Moses Bartlit,	Nathaniel Bliss, 2d,
Noah Alvord,	Benjamin Warriner,
Samuel Stebbins, Jr.,	Samuel Bartlit,
David Chapin, Jr.,	Moses Burt."

There are twenty-four of these subscribers. Adding the names of "Thomas Mirick 2d and Abel Bliss," signed to the Petition, the whole number is twenty-six. It will be seen that these names differ from those given in Dr. Merrick's manuscript address, deposited in the town-clerk's office. The above document was copied from the Records of the General Court in the office of the Secretary of State.

The Petition and the action of the General Court are contained in the Address, with the exception of the formal signing of the officers of the two branches and the governor.

D. p. 42.

MR. MERRICK'S ORDINATION.

I regret to say that I have not been able to obtain any information respecting the members of the council or the services of the occasion. I have written to the churches, then established in Hampden County, but I

can obtain no aid. There is nothing recorded. I was confident I should find something on the subject in the Diary of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Williams, of Longmeadow, but I was disappointed. For the supposed facts of the difficulty which arose respecting the number of church members, of the oak-tree, the rain, and the barn, I am indebted to Dr. Merrick's manuscript address. I have striven to construct an account of the service out of these facts which should awaken in the reader a feeling of its reality, and which should correspond at least with the truth.

E. p. 65.

"OLD TENOR" AND "LAWFULL MONEY."

I have used these terms frequently in the Address, and they need explanation. In the early settlement of the country most articles of manufacture were imported from the mother country, and were paid for in cash, that is, in coin or in produce. The drain was so great that it became necessary to issue *paper* money, promises to pay, like our bank-bills, but as there were no banks, it was done by the State. This paper-money was not worth so much as coin, just as now it takes a dollar and a half paper money to obtain one dollar in coin. The difference in the value of paper and coin increased so rapidly that in 1749 it took nearly ten dollars of paper to obtain one of coin. "Lawful currency" was the value of coin; "old tenor" was the value of "paper." Thus, one thousand dollars "old tenor" was one hundred dollars in "lawful money." A *new* issue of paper was afterwards made, which was called sometimes "New Tenor;" this paper was of the same value as coin, was "Lawful Money."

SETTLEMENT WITH SPRINGFIELD RESPECTING THE SCHOOL AND MINISTRY LANDS IN THE SECOND AND THIRD DIVISIONS.

I have stated on p. 61, that a settlement "*was* made." There is no record of particulars. Several committees were chosen to consider the subject; but there is no final report, which I have found, stating the conditions of the arrangement, and the subject disappears from the records in a fog.

SCHOOL MONEY GRANTED BY SPRINGFIELD TO THE PRECINCT BEFORE IT WAS INCORPORATED AS A TOWN. Page 64.

1737, Nov. 21. "Granted to the Inhabitants at the Mountains on the East Side of the Great River for supporting Schooling there three pounds and to be paid as it becomes due to Nathan[l] Warriner."

1738. £3 "to be paid to David Mirick as it becomes due."

1739. £4 "at ye mountain Parish to be p^d Nath^ll Warriner."

1740. £6 "to be paid as it becomes Due to Nath^ll Warriner and the School to be Kept where and when the Selectmen Shall Direct."

1741. £8 "to be paid as it becomes due to David Mirick 3^d the school to be under the Regulation of y^e Selectmen."

1742. £10 "to be paid as Due to Isaac Brewer."

1743. £10 "to be Kept as the Selectmen Shall order and the Money to be paid as they Shall Direct."

1744. £12 "to be paid as it becomes Due to Nathaniel Warriner & y^e School to be under y^e Direction of the Selectmen."

1745. £12 "to be paid as it becomes Due to Nathaniel Warriner."

1746. £12 "to be paid as it becomes Due to be under the Regulation of y^e Selectmen."

1747. £14 "to be under the Regulation of the Selectmen and they to order the payment thereof as it becomes Due to whom they shall think fit."

1748. £21 "to be disbursed as above (1747)."

1749. £35 "to be disbursed as above (1747)."

1750. £4 13s. 4d. "Lawfull Money" School "to be kept at Place or Places as Selectmen order." Rest as before.

1751. £4 13s. 4d., as in 1750.

1752. £4 13s. 4d., as in 1750.

1752. Nov. 8, "Voted that Mr Jacob White Mr Nath^ll Burt & L^te Samuel Mirick be a Com^ee to Examine the Circumstances of the Inhabitants of the Mountain Parish with Respect to the Towns Granting them a sum of money towards Defraying the Charge of building the School House already built in said Parish & make Report at this meeting."

1753. £4 13s. 4d., as above to be distributed.

1754. £4 13s. 4d., as above to be distributed.

1754. Nov. 4. A committee was chosen "to view and Consider the more proper Place or Places for school Houses to be built in the Mountain Parish & what sum is Proper to allow said Inhabitants for the School House already built there" consisting of Mr Simon Cotton Mr. Robert Harris & Mr Luke Hitchcock 2^d "and s^d Com^ee" "are directed to make report as soon as may be."

1754. Nov. 25, There is "Granted the Sum of £6 To be paid to Ens^n James Warriner For and Towards the Charge of Building the school House lately built at the Mountain Parish so Called and to be by him repaid to the Several persons who were at the Expense of building the Same in Equal Proportion according to what they Severally advanc^d for that purpose they certifying to him what each man advanc^d and what they are severally to Receive out of the said Sum therefor."

1755. Nov. 4, A committee chosen at a Previous meeting Report that the School money shall be divided for the English Schools (not including the grammar school at Sp^d street) as the town directed, regard being had to the "Estates and the number of schollars from the age of 4 years to 11" and they gave "the 4th Parish £6, 16, 7, 1." to the "3^d Parish £6, 12, 7."

1756. £45, 7, 4, 3, whole amount raised.

1757. £45, 7, 4, 3, whole amount raised.

1758. £45, 8, whole amout raised.

1759. £60, whole amount raised.

1760. £90. — "Voted that a quarter part of said sum be proportion^{d} according to the number of schollars in the several Districts of the Town from the age of four Years to Twelve, and the Remainder on the Polls and Estates."

1761. £90, as last year.

1762. £90, as last year.

F. p. 66.

ROADS.

The first record of a road laid by the town of Springfield, in the territory of Wilbraham, is made in March, 1744. A change is made in the "West Road" from Stephen Stebbins's, south, over the Scantic; also, from Stebbins's, east, to Brinfield line (Monson was included in Brinfield then), about as it now runs; also, from Brinfield line on the overplus land, in the second division, to the middle road; "Provided the Same or Either of them or any Part of them do not Prove Chargeable to the town." — *Records of Springfield.*

County roads had been laid before this time, or the proprietors had marked paths which were to be opened as roads in due time.

BRIDGES.

1738. March 14, "Voted that a Cart Bridge be built at twelve Mile Brook in the Country Rhoad at the Charge of the Town, and Dan'l Parsons Obadiah Cooley and John Hitchcock Jun^{r} Chosen a Com^{tee} to build the Same at the Cheapest Rate they Can."

1738. April 14, reconsidered.

1741. Nov. 23^{d} "Voated that a Good Cart Bridge be Erected and Built across the Brook called Twelve mile Brook in the Countrey Road with Good Large Hewed Timber at the Charge of The Town. And that Abel Bliss David Mirick and Daniel Warner be a Committee to do the same and that the same be *Done as soon as may be.*" Good reason, for there was now a "Presentment of the Grand Jury against the Town for want of a Bridge" at the Brook. — *Records of Springfield.*

G. p. 67.

ELEGY ON THE YOUNG MAN BITTEN BY A RATTLESNAKE.

" On Springfield mountains there did dwell
A likely youth who was knowne full well
Lieutenant Mirick onley sone
A likely youth nigh twenty one

" One friday morning he did go
in to the medow and did moe
A round or two then he did feal
A pisin sarpent at his heal

" When he received his dedly wond
he dropt his sithe a pon the ground
And strate for home wase his intent
Caling aloude stil as he went

" tho all around his voys wase hered
but none of his friends to him apiere
they thot it wase some workmen calld
and there poor Timothy alone must fall

" So soon his Carful father went
to seak his son with discontent
and there hes fond onley son he found
ded as a stone a pon the ground

" And there he lay down sopose to rest
with both his hands Acrost his brest
his mouth and eyes Closed fast
And there poor man he slept his last

" his father vieude his track with great consarn
Where he had ran across the corn
uneven tracks where he did go
did apear to stagger to and frow

" The seventh of August sixty one
this fatal axsident was done
Let this a warning be to all
to be Prepared when God does call."

I hardly overstated the variety of claimants, or rather authors, to whom this Elegy (?) is attributed, — to Daniel or Jesse Carpenter, to a young lady to whom young Merrick was engaged, and to Nathan Torrey. The latter has the honor of authorship, if any reliance can be placed upon the most direct and authentic tradition on the subject. The original has been tampered with by editors. I have done my best to approach the author's copy.

H. p. 68.

SOLDIERS IN THE FRENCH WAR, 1755–1760.

I regret that I cannot give a fuller and more reliable list of the soldiers from the Fourth Precinct of Springfield, who went to the French war. In the first place, all the soldiers are entered in the rolls as from Springfield, and, as the names of the inhabitants of the other precincts are similar to, sometimes the same as, those in the fourth, it is impossible to tell whether a soldier is from our citizens, unless the name of every inhabitant is known. I have no list except that given at the seating of the meeting-house, in 1760. That I have used and have entered no person whose name is not there found, or is incidentally named in the records. It is probable that *nearly* every person had a seat in the house. Then, in the second place, though the "Register Rolls" are most admirably arranged in the office of the Secretary of State, and the clerks show every attention, it is necessary to know the name of the Colonel of the Regiment, or the Captain of the Company at least, to find the name of the private for which search is made. I have thoroughly examined the rolls, and give the result at which I arrived.

I have selected, from "A List of 151 men Voluntarily Inlisted into his Majesty's Service [1755] for reinforcing the Army for Crown Point out of y^e^ Southern Regiment in the County of Hampshire," for three months, "Benj. Day Capt. Martin Drury L^t^. Tho^s^. Morgan En^s^." the following names of Wilbraham men: John Langdon, Timothy Wright, Philip Lyon. In another company, commanded by Capt. Elisha Noble, I find the name of William King Jr.

In a company of which Luke Hitchcock was Captain, Nathan [on the roll, but Nathaniel in history] Burt, Lieutenant, I find Daniel Cadwell, Sergeant, Paul Langdon, Sergeant, Isaac Colton, Corporal, Aaron Bliss, Corporal, Aaron Alvord, Benjamin Warriner, Samuel Warner, Benjamin Wright, Aaron Warriner, Stephen Bliss, Jesse Warner, Aaron Parsons. They were out "eight months," from April 3, 1755, to January 3, 1756. They were in the battle near the southern extremity of Lake George, with Baron Dieskau. Lieutenant Burt was killed.

1759. On the "Billeting roll" of the Company of Capt. John Bancroft, in the Regiment of Col. Timothy Ruggles, I find the names of Benoni Atchinson, Moses Bartlet, Thomas Dunham, Paul Hitchcock, Samuel Warner Sr., Samuel Warner Jr., Moses Warriner.

I have found the name of several negroes in these rolls, who went out as soldiers.

EXTRACTS FROM SAMUEL WARNER'S JOURNAL, KEPT ON THE EXPEDITION TO CROWN POINT, 1759.

This is the so-called "Clark" Warner. He was in Capt. John Bancroft's Company, and Col. Timothy Ruggles's Regiment. Some of the first leaves of the Journal are lost, and I will commence my extracts with the brief abstract which he gives of the trip from Albany to Fort Edward.

I now give an acoumpt of our March from Albana to fort Edward. We looded 19 Barrils of flower and pork in a batoo and Carrid them within three miles of Stillwarter and there on Looded in the hull of our Regiment there was about 1100 Barrils and then we went to Stillwarters and Looded 25 Barrils in Each Battoo which made about 1400 and Carrid them up to about a mile above Sototoga and onloded the Same and then went about one mile and then Looded 22 Barrils which made 1300 and Carrid them to the fott of the falls at fort miller onloded them there the Batoos was caried about half a mile and the provision and then Looded againe 20 Barils 1150 and Carrid them to fort Edward this is a trew acount a varey hard voige we had.

This day [June] 7th there was Reain Came Before Day and so Held 24 ours varey hard a grat part of the Day and varey Cold Raw weather

frey Day 8th Day this Day varey Clowday Raw and Cold in the morning and afterwards more moderate and Sun Shine Varey Cold att Night and just in the morning We had a varey grate Larrom by the polesy of the jeneral amhers[t] ordered a party of men att the falls to fier there guns att a marke varey Brisk on purpos to See what Readynes the armey would Be in the armey was all Drawd up in arms.

Saterday 9th this Day varey Clear and pleasant yesterday and to Day Diging up old Stobs and Rots two feet or three feet over and we moved our tents 40 Rods.

Sabday 10th this Day 6 o clock, the hilanders fierd one Round Distinct one after a nither and a fare plesant Day afterwards our solders went to Battooing onley saveing the quarter guard and a few that was not well.

Munday the 11th * * * one man whipt 400 strips.

Wensday 13th * * * there was 240 men Draughted out of our Rijement to Keep the fort Edward viz: 19 out of our Company.

Thosday 14th * * This morning there was two Rodeisland men whipt for Desart one of them 500 the other 999 this day is the first prayer we heard at Night This day the Rev[t] Mr forbosh Came into the Camp.

[Then follows here a page containing entries of letters received and sent. There are six "leaters to my girls" in two months, and eleven to other persons. "Samul," his son, "reseaved a letter from his sister Lois," and three others are "reseaved" from other persons.]

Saturday 16th this Day there was one of the Conecticots Brought to place of Execution in order to Be shot to Death for Desartion & after giving warning to others and then makeing of a prayer he was placst upon his Knees & his cap over his face Reseved a pardon yesterday and to day we Looded about 300 Batoos and they was carrid to half way Boock and 100 teems.

Sabday 17th there was about a 100 Batoos Carrid from Hear and about 200 other wagins with stores & about 200 ox teams went from here with stores and the

Like making in y^e^ hul 500 * * * * this Day there was a sermon preacht in y^e^ afternoon By the R^t^ Mr ferbush text in 15 of Exodus 3 vers the Lord is a man of war the Lord is his Name this was the first sermon that was preacht amongst us. the first Batallun about 200 or three hundred guns [fired] att a mark after sermon there was 3 Rodeisland men whipt for being absent from Role Calling.

Monday 18th * * * this morning I was put under gard.

Tusday 19th * * * a Cort Marshil upon a young man and Rise & myself to-day for Nothin worth a menshing the young man Becas his gun went of upon half Bent and myself Becase I did not goo So quick and Call my sun when Sergent Daniel Miller Bid me goo I Being upon other Duty the same time yet I went Notwithstanding But I had my Dismisshon without any thing more said to me

Wensday 20th this Day * * the 2d Recrutes came in from the province of Boston.

Thursday 21st this Day we marcht from fort Edward with about ten Reigements we struck our tents about brake of Day slong our packs about Sun Rise and stood with y^m^ on a full ouer then marcht forward Nor onlooded Nor Rested till we got within five miles of Lake gorge there Rested about one ouer and half varey hot men allmost Beet out By going without vittuals in the morning about 500 teems and wagins the officers had no packs the general and other big officers had horsis and Servens they did not Consider the poor solders Had they Had any Compasshoon upon poore Solders they wood not a dun as they Did one man Dyed By Reson of Such Hard traveling and Drinking of warter this was a Conectucut man and two or three more it was said they ware a Dying the armey was marcht of in the morning on a sudden and had not time to git any Refreshment to Carey with them But God in His providence has spared men's Lives & Carrid threw hather to *we shall not Dey Before our time*

Freyday 22^d^ this Day in the morning fare and plesent grate Dele of gaiming and and Feeterge [performing of feats] tho a grate Complaint among the solders By Reason of there hardships the Day Before

Sabday 17th there was a flagg of truse Came in to half way Bruck to see whether we had any prreasners to Exchang

Saterday 23d * * Varey Hot * thunder * no Rain. A Cort Marshil to Day upon a soldir for as tis soposed for Steeling of a Hatchit he is judged to Be whipt 50 Lashis which he Had — a grate Number of wagins came in to Day 150 or 200

Tuesday 26. * * this Day order Came out in general that No solder should Drink any warter without it Being Boild Except he had ginger in it.

Wensday 27 * * Benoney atchinson and Isaac Whittemore Come here to Day.

Thosday 28 * * * this Day I Entered into Bisnes of a Mason two Regements fiered plattwoons.

Saterday 30th * * * Coll. Whitens [Whiting's] Regiment marcht from here to Day tis said they are gon to Mohawke River in for german flats the wagins and teems Came in every Day about 300 a day

Sabday July 1st * * orders Came out that every one of us shoold fix a wooden flint in his gun two Capt Came in this Day from the french

Munday 2d * * about ten oclock in the morning a partey of about 60 of the inemy fell on a party of the gersey Blew and Kild 8 and scalpt them upon the Spot

and wounded 3 more this was in full view of our armey a more protiekular a compt there was 18 of the garsey blew went to git Bare one the North of our Camps and thare was it was soposed about three or five score of the inemy got Between our men and the gard and which Kild and wounded and tuck all But one they were followed By Rogers about ten miles and then they tuck to there Batoos the acount was there was 11 batoos and 20 od in each as they thought by the No

Tensday 3d * * There was four Brase 18 pounders or 22 Brought in to Day Sum small pesses the 2d Recruts from Boston and harford Came in to Day — Capt Jacob with 30 men went out to day to find the inemy if could find any 24 more was dug up out of one hole whare we did Build the fort four Iron guns 22 pounders Came in and afterwards two more Brase guns in the Hole making 10 22 or 24 pounders and 12 twelve pounders

Wensday 4th * * 24 more Dug up in one hole two french Desarters came in to Day

Thusday 5th. * * * alarum att Night By y^e^ Reson of an indians fiering on one of the senterey and he Riturned a Shoot again and woounded him By the Sine of Blood thare is a fort a Reacted the North end of Element Hill

Saturday 7th I went about the Element Hill on the North End of it there is a fort of 14 squares or turns in it made with wood and stoane and a Horspottal of Stoane the Length about 8 Roods the wedth about Eighteen feet from out side to out side the thickness of the Wale two feet and ½ the hith about five feet.

Sabday 8th * * three men Belonging to Co^ll^ Whiteens Ri^mt^ Dyed in one Horspitectel this Day was a Varey grate Day of Blooing of Rocks.

Munday 9th. * * We have the News of gen^l^ Woolfs takeing of some strong place up Canaday River this Day there came in a party of the Indions under the command of Capt Jacob that went Down the Lake sum Days ago tis said the Indias fel on him & wounded y^e^ Cap^t^ and another of his men. I tuck more observation of Buldings an in sted of one Hospotitel there is three more all in a few Roods of one a nither one stoon two wood Housen

Tuesday 10th * * one man Cap^t^ of the waginers was convicted of Steeling the Kings tools was Judged by a Cort Marshil to be whipt 36 Lashis att the hed of Every Regiment which he had * * *

Thursday 12. this Day By Brake of Day there was about 600 men set out to goo Down the Lake about 8 o clock in the morning they came to a party of french and Indins Jes upon the first Narrows and a small ingagement it seemed to bee by what we coold see the grate guns played they drove the Indions of — this day their was five Barrils of Rum and two of goine stove in a few Rods where I was at work for selling contrary to order

Fryday 13. this day we was Draughted out which is the 3d time I have Ben pitcht upon for this work of mason — at noon a man shot to Death for Desertion

Saterday 14 at Night our first Batallun and Lymans Reg^t^ and some others came to Jine the armey.

Wensday 18th Wi^m^ Hancock and Abner parsons Came up to day

Thusday 19th one man whipt for strikeing an officer at the head of every Rigement a post came in to day Being an account of a small fort was beset by the Inemy our men took and kild a great Number of y^m^

Freyday 20th one man shot to Death for steeling

Saterday 21st this day the armey marcht for ticonderoga they struck there tents about three o'clok in the morning and about sun rise the Bigest part of the armey got to the warter side they Borded three Batoos about Sun an ouer and half high and set of about twelve o clock they ware out of sight and they Cep a going of all the Day afterwards 10–20–30 Batoos to a time till sun one ouer and ½ high att night then the Sloop set sail and att Sun Down she was about 15 miles of tis soposed to be 12000 men 15 morters 12. 12 pounders 6. 24 pounders of Brase 3 18 pounders of Iron & a grate number of swivels this Day there is a grate morning among the Wiming as if they had Lost there Husborns * *

Sabday 22d there is 400 Men Came in to Day 100 of them gone Down the Lake or 200 there is 62 masons left behind there is 150 or 200 in the hospititel

Wensday 25th this morning abont Day the grate Boot came in * * and Brought the News that we our armey ware well intrencht where the french had theres Last year and played there cannon upon them and also we had taken 2 Indins and Kild 2 and taken 4 french and Kild two with the Lose of one man

Hampshire Regiment is come to the Lake in order to goo to Oswago News came in that Magr Rogers had a grate fite Between tyconderoga and Crown point. a Large guneylow or two mast Boot went of with abont 90 or a 100 horsis to tyconderoga

Freyday 27th I heard a man say that was there that a minester Kep Count of the French Cannon that was fired Wensday night the No is 150 and our men had not fiered any then worth menchurning

Saturday 28th in the morning Colll fitch Came in with his Rigement * * our interpreter said that * * * there was but 200 men in the fort and 300 in crown point fort and said our men might take it without fiering a gun and said that Rogers had Kild and sunk 500 of there men in Shamplain Lake. * * * ye french fiered sum hundreds of Cannon and Burns the Day and Night Before they left the fort they fiered the magascen & and blew up what they coold the Night before Last * * * this day two Bond fiers made one the a count of tyconderogas Being taken.

Thusday [August] 2d this day 12 o cloock news came that crown point was Blown up By the french the truth I will waight for Esq Woodbridge says it is trew without fail and the french are a fortifying about ten or 15 miles Beyond

Saterday 4th I had the news that our Battallun marcht to crown point this day

Sabday 5th a tumult among the setlers ye officer tuck there Rum and Brandey from them

Teusday 7th By the Reson of the Heat the Injineare and two or three more ware Carid from thare work to thare tents and I ware varey much put to it to keep upon my Leegs

Saterday 11th There was an Express come here & went over the Lake and he said he had the news of an officer he saw a Leater opened & which gave an a count that genl Woulf had got well intrincht clost By Queback without the Loss of any men as to the truth I will Leave att present

Tusday 16th No news onley the a count of a former storey of a man shot down a Reaven and she spake.

Saterday 18th heard of Janerll Jonsons sending in 627 Captives to albana and he Distroayed 500 more

Sabday 19th Le^t Howard told me that he had Bin to crown point and he was informed there that there ware orders for 115000 sticks of timber 30 feet long and 15 inches thick s^d timber to Be Brought as fast as Can Be got hewed one three Sides and that they ware Blooing up Rocks 7 feet deep

Munday 3d [September] Rain the bigest part of the day and y^e co^ll said Dam it you shall work so we Did

Freyday 7th an express came in to Day about Jan^ll Woolfs being Defeated and Drove back one leter I sent to Daniel Warner and one to Sister Lois moved into my new tent.

Saterday 15th about one o clock had orders to march to crown point and about dark I sot of for the same with 30 men

Sabday 16th morning we landed att tyconde Roga Before Sun Rise and then marcht Right of to crown point and got there Sun two ours high

Tuesday 18th began to work att crown point.

Freyday 21st begun the stone Barrack

Wensday 26 I was sick and could not work

[October] Wensday 10th L^t Hutchins Came here Last Night and gave an account of genirel Woolfs destroying of Quebeck

Thusday 11th one Coullee a captive gave an a Count of Mr. Williams sister in Canada and one Sargent Couen was taken when Hitchcock was killed. 5500 men set off from here for St. Johns.

Saterday 12th one Drove of fat oxen Came in from No fore — this night news came in from the armey that in a fogg a good part of our armey got By two french Sloops Before proseved them amediately our armey Landed one Boath sids Before an reft of the french But 19th of y^e Lite Enfanty went to the french Soposein they ware our own sloops and ware taken S^d french are Blockt up Near Orter Crick.

Teusday 16 I have a Reumer of an express that is gone to our genirel y^t moon calm and ge^ll woolf is Kild and there armies most all Destroyed one Boath sides By a fare field fight But we got the victory But as to the truth I leave at present 32000 french 16000 of ours

Wensday 17th News came By an express from our gen^ll woolfs armey that they Drove into the french trench at by that means got the victory with the loss of y^e gener^ll and 400 men & Kild mont Calm & 1600 men

Thosday 18. News that the Armey two french Sloop and sunk the other and the Brigg got Cleere this day

Freyday 19th I heard of the Death of William Harris he Dyed Last Tuesday 16th of this month — Last night there came in an Indin Captive and gave a Count of Capt Canada Being Kild and his men after taken and Capt Jacob & others Capt Jacobs is in gail

Sabday 21st there came in 2000 Regulars, which is part of the armey.

Freyday 26th there went about two hundred men to make the Rode goo to No four

Munday 29th Aaron prest Dyed

Wensday 31. Varey cold the ground frose and Ise half an Inch thick in the morning to day our Drum (?) bill Brocks Dyed

Thosday 1st [November.] Last Night a Number of men under gard for tempt-

ing to goo hum and to Day a Member of the garsey Blews under gard but Dismist to Day

Teusday 6th the Solders Came from fort Edward here to Day

Wensday 17 News Came in to Day that Rogers had Distroyed St. francy way without the Loss of any man But 12 wounded

Sabday 25th [17 Days lost of the Journal] ground frose hard We marched to Davises fort and campt there.

Munday 26th cold and Snow and hold to while Noon then Rain We marched to Northfield and Lay there Capt putman of Rode Island Dyed att ———

Teusday 27th Cold Rainy Day I marcht from Northfield to Sunderland I logged at Carsons Warner's

Wensday 28th This Day fare and plesant morning — and south winds varey raw after wards I went from Sunderland to my one hous this day.

I. p. 69.

VOTE OF THE TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD FORBIDDING TRESPASS ON THE OUTWARD COMMONS.

April 4. Voted that Mr. Thos. Colton, William Pynchon Jr. Esq. and Doct[r] John Leonard be a Committee Agents or Attorneys for and in Behalf of this town. To Prosecute Sue for and Recover of all or any Person or persons that heretofore have or that Shall Cut Kill Destroy or Cary away of from the Lands Called the outward Commons for said Springfield, not having Right so to do, any grass or any wood Timber or trees Brush or underwood and pine or Candlewood Standing, Lying being or growing on the same, as also to Prosecute all such who have or shall Digg up or Carry away any Stone Lying or being or Growing on the Said Commons without License so to do and to Take all Lawfull measures in the affair as they Shall find Convenient for obtaining the Damage Happening by any such Trespassers To s[d] Town.

J. p. 77.

MEASURES TAKEN TO OBTAIN INCORPORATION AS A TOWN.

PETITION TO THE TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD, 1762, FOR INCORPORATION AS A TOWN OR DISTRICT, page 73.

"To the Select men of the Town of Springfield Gen[t] these Pray you to Insert in your warrant for the Annual Town Meeting in March Next Ensuing the following Article viz. to see if the Town will vote off the East or the fourth precinct in s[d] Town as a Destinct Town or Destrict with those additions and alterations they shall think fit and pass all proper votes Relating thereunto — and you will oblige your humble petitioners.

SPRINGFIELD Jan. 29: 1762.

STEPH STEBBINS
WM KING
JOHN BLISS
DANIEL CADWELL
JAMES WARRINER JUNER

} Com[tt] for S[d] precinct

The article was inserted. At meeting, March 23, 1762, "the question was put whether the prayer thereof should be granted and it pass'd in y^e^ Negative;" and the meeting adjourned to March 30th. when the question came up again, and it was, —

"Voted that the Vote pass^d^ at the Meeting the 23^d^ Instant on y^e^ Petition of the Inhabitants of y^e^ 4th Parish Praying to be Voted a separate Town or District be Reconsidered."

The Clerk continues his record as follows: —

"Att this this Meeting the Petition of Daniel Cadwell & others Com^ee^ of y^e^ 4th Parish in S^d^ Town Dated March 23^d^ 1762 was Read & Considered the Second time and the Questin was put whether the prayer thereof Sh^d^ be Granted and it Pass^d^ in the Negative, But on further Consideration thereof had Voted to Reconsider S^d^ vote, and voted that L^t^ Robert Harris Capt Simon Cotton & Lt Thomas Mirick be a Committee to Consider of S^d^ Petition and Report to the Town an soon as may be what they think proper to be done in y^e^ affair."

Meantime the mountaineers are awake, and another Petition is sent to Springfield as follows: —

"To the Select men of the Town of Springfield Gen^t^men these Pray you to Insert in your warrant for the Town meeting in May Next the following article viz. to see if the Town will vote off the fourth precinct in S^d^ Town as a Separate town or Destrict with those alterations and additions they think fit and pass all proper votes thereon and you will oblige yours.

SPRINGFIELD, April 29: 1762

WM KING
DANIEL CADWELL
STEPH STEBBINS
JAMES WARRINER JUNER
} Comtt^ee^ for S^d^ precinct

The Town of Springfield met May 25, 1762, "and the Question was put whether the Town w^d^ Consent that the East or 4th Parish in s^d^ Town Sh^d^ be a separate District and it passd in the Negative." The "Question" came up again, Nov. 15, 1762, "whether the east or fourth Parish in Said town Should be a separate District and it passes in the Negative" when put.

The men of the "4th Precinct" understand the power of persistent prayer, and they again appeal to the town, May 17th, 1763, —

"Att this Meeting the Petition of Nath^ll^ Warriner & others Committee of the 4th Parish in S^d^ Town Presented their Petition Desiring to be a Separate Town or District which was Read & Considered & voted that the Prayer thereof *be Granted.*" [Records of Springfield.]

I have not been able, after the most diligent search, and the generous assistance of the clerks in the State Department, to find the petition of the citizens of the fourth precinct, to the General Court for an act of incorporation, as a town.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

ANNO REGNI GEORGII TERTII  REGIS TERTIO.

[In the third year of the reign of George the Third.]

An Act for incorporating the South Parish of Springfield, in the County of Hampshire into a separate Town by the name of Wilbraham.

WHEREAS the Inabitants of the Fourth Parish in said Springfield have represented to this Court that they labour under great Inconveniences and Difficulties in attending on the Publick Affairs of the said Town, by reason of their great distance from the usual Place where they are transacted etc : and that they are increased to such numbers that it may be fitting that they should be incorporated into a separate Town, and have accordingly petitioned this Court therefor —

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Representatives, That the said fourth Parish in said Springfield with the addition of half a mile[1] West from the West line of Said Parish from Chicobee River on the North, to the northerly Line of the Township of Somers on the South be erected into a separate Town by the name of Wilbraham[2] and that the inhabitants of said Town be invest-

[1] Dr. Merrick says, "When this parish was incorporated the lands lying west were unlocated. In locating these, Springfield agreed that we should have our share adjoining to us, and accordingly set the half mile to the inhabitants of this then parish, so that when the town was incorporated all this half mile belonged to us. Beyond this half mile the lands were principally owned by Springfield." — *MS. Address.*

[2] The town appears to have received its name either from an English Baronet of the name of Wilbraham or from the Parish called Wilbraham, situated near Cambridge in England.

The ancestor of the Baronet Wilbraham was Sir Richard De Wilburgham of Woodbey, Southampton County. His descendant in the sixth generation was Sir Richard Wilbraham, born 1579, and knighted by James I. He was created Baronet March 5, 1621. Sir Richard's son, Thomas, succeeded him, and distinguished himself in the royal cause during the great rebellion in opposition to Cromwell and the Puritans. Sir Thomas Wilbraham died October 31, 1660. His son, Sir Thomas, succeeded him in the Baronetcy and died August, 1692. As he had no sons the Baronetcy expired at his death. A descendant of his, the Hon. O. B. Morris tells me, is the present Lord Skelmersdale.

If the people of Wilbraham supposed their town was named for this bitter royalist and anti-Puritan it will account for the dissatisfaction which Dr. Merrick says was felt respecting the name. But there is another way of accounting for the name.

Wilburgham, or Wilbraham, as the modern spelling is, is a parish or town in the hundred of Staine, county of Cambridge, seven miles from Cambridge, northeasterly. There are two villages, "Wilbraham Great," and "Wilbraham Little." "Great" had a popula-

ed with all the Powers and Priviledges that Towns in this Province enjoy by Law, that of sending a Representative to this Court only excepted. And that the said Town shall have full Right and Liberty from Time to Time to join with said Town of Springfield in the choice of Representatives, to represent them at the General Assembly, And that the said Town of Wilbraham shall from Time to Time be at their Proportionable Part of the Expense of such Representatives, and the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Wilbraham shall be notified of the Time and Place of Election, in like manner as the Inhabitants of said Springfield, by a warrant from the Selectmen of said Springfield, directed to the Constable of said Wilbraham, directing him to warn the Inhabitants of said Wilbraham to attend the said meeting at the Time and Place therein assigned and that the Pay of said Representatives be borne by said Towns of Springfield and Wilbraham in the same Proportion from Time to Time as they pay to the Province Tax.[1]

And in order effectually to Prevent all future Dispute that might otherwise arise between the said Towns of Springfield and Wilbraham respecting their joint Interests or joint Duties;

Be it Enacted, That the said Town of Wilbraham shall enjoy the two Ministry and School Lots in said Town, in full Satisfaction of their Share in the Ministry and School Lands in said Town of Springfield, and of the Money and Debts due to said Town: That they pay their due Proportion of the Town Debts already contracted, and have their due Proportion of the Town Stock of Ammunition: That they pay to the Support of the present Poor of said Town of Springfield (now supported at the Town Charge) Eleven Pounds in One Hundred so long as they shall Continue a Charge to said Town; and that this Act shall not be construed to hinder or prevent any Persons, Inhabitants of said Springfield from Cutting Timber or Taking Herbage or Stone on any of the Lands in said Wilbraham so long as they remain unfenced, any more than if this Act had not been made.

And be it further Enacted, That John Worthington, Esq. be and hereby is empowered and directed to issue his Warrant directed to some principal Inhabitant of said Wilbraham requiring him to warn the Inhabitants of said Town qualified to

tion of 354 in 1801, and "Little," of 183. The tax of "Great" was £223 16s. 8d.; that of "Little," £140 2s. 3d. Rowland Stebbins, the ancestor of the Stebbinses, and William Pynchon, the ancestor of the Pynchons, and the original proprietor of Springfield, originated in the near neighborhood of these Wilbrahams, and came from near them to this country. It is very probable that through their influence, or rather that of their descendants, the name Wilbraham may have been selected for this town. Pynchon and Stebbins were friends in England and continued so here. This is to me the most plausible account of the origin of the name.

[1] "At a date prior to 1753 the Governor of Massachusetts was instructed by the home government to consent to no act for establishing a new town in the province, unless by a special clause it should place a restraint upon the power of sending representatives. New towns were therefore incorporated as "districts," possessing all the powers of towns, except that of sending representatives to the General Court. They voted for these with other towns named in their act of incorporation. The jealousy of the Crown of the increasing power and influence of the towns is clearly evinced by this measure. Several towns in Western Massachusetts were incorporated in this manner. In 1786, after the Revolution, it was enacted that all towns which had been incorporated as districts, or not having the privilege of sending representatives, should have it thereafter." — *Holland's History of Weston, Mass.*, vol. i. p. 202.

vote in Town affairs to assemble at some suitable Time and Place in said Town, to choose such Officers as may be necessary to manage the affairs of said Town, which at such meeting they are hereby empowered to choose.

Provided, nevertheless, the Inhabitants of said Wilbraham shall pay their proportional Part of all such Province and County Taxes as are already set upon them by the said Town of Springfield in like manner as tho' this Act had not been made.

And be it further Enacted, That of the sum set on the Town of Springfield as their Proportion with other Towns in a Tax of one Thousand Pounds, for the future of the said Town of Springfield, shall retain the sum of Eleven Pounds two Shillings and ten Pence two Farthings; and that there be set on the said Town of Wilbraham the sum of one Pound thirteen Shillings and six Pence as their Rate or Proportion for their Payment of publick Taxes.

June 14th 1763 — This Bill having been read three several Times in the House of Representatives ——— Passed to be enacted.

TIMo RUGGLES Spkr

June 14th 1763 — This Bill having been read three several Times in Council —— Passd to be Enacted.

A. OLIVER Secy

June 15th 1763 — By the Governor

I consent to the enacting of this Bill.

FRA BERNARD

BIRTHS AND DEATHS WHICH TOOK PLACE BEFORE THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN, AS RECORDED BY SAMUEL WARNER.

I omit the name of the mother, the surname of the child, and some other words which he uses, in order to abbreviate the record. It seems important that the names should be saved from perishing with the leaves of this frail manuscript of Warner's. A few births are supposed to have taken place in Longmeadow and Springfield which Warner has not entered. In case of sickness, persons sometimes went to their friends in those towns.

Comfer, dr. of Danl. Warner, Mar. 15, 1734.
Aaron, son of Noah Alvord, July 29, 1734.
Eunis, dr. of Moses Burt, March 29, 1735.
Marcy, dr. of Nathl. Hitchcock, June 30, 1735.
Hannah, dr. of Saml. Warner, July 8, 1735.
Mary, dr. of Saml. Stebbins, Aug. 23, "
Marcy, dr. of David Mirick, Oct. 8, "
Daniel, son of Danl. Warner, Dec. 26, "
David, son of David Jones, d. —, 19, 1736.
Oliver, son of Abel Bliss, b. Nov. 20, "
Gideon, son of Nath'l. Hitchcock, b. Nov. 25, 1736.
Sarah, dr. of Daniel Lamb, b. Dec. 4, (?) 1736.
Jose. Knowlton, d. Feb. 11, 1737.
Aaron, son of Aaron Parsons, b. Feb. 14, 1737.
Ester, dr. of Danl. Parsons, b. Feb. 27, 1737.
Hannah, dr. of David Jones, July 14, 1737.
Marcy, dr. of Saml. Warner, Aug. 16, "
Eleah, dr of Cornelius Webb, Mar. 8, 1738.
Elisabeth, dr. of Noah Alvord, July 22, 1738.
Abel, son of Abel Bliss, Oct. 5, "
Jesse, son of Danl. Warner, Oct. 15, "
Seth, son of Samuel Stebbins, Jan. 8, 1739.
Giddion, son of Daniel Parsons, Feb. 24, 1739.
Gad, son of Danl. Lamb, Apr. 3, 1739.
Eunis, dr. of Benj. Warriner, Apr. 3, "
David, son of David Mirick, May 22, "
Timothy, son of Thos. Mirick, May 24, "
Rubin, son of Aron Parsons, May 30, "

Rhoda, dr. of Saml. Warner, Sept. 7, 1739.
Silas, son of Nathl. Hitchcock, Oct. 6, "
Abel & Seth, s. of Benj. Wright, Feb. 8, 1740.
Mary, dr. of David Warriner, Mar. 23, "
Ithiel, son of David Chapin, Mar. 26, "
Eunis, dr. of Isaac Brewer, Apr. 20, "
Merreham, dr. of Moses Bartlit, July 15, "
Charles, son of Cornelius Webb, Sep. —, "
Moses, son of Moses Burt, Oct. 27, "
Jemima, dr. of Abel Bliss, Oct. 12, "
Ithyel, son of David Chapin, d. Dec. 8, "
Zenes, son of Aaron Parsons, b. " 11, "
Wid. Elisabeth Cockril, } d. Apr. 26, 1741, and was the 1st person yt was buried in ye moun ts.
Thomas, son of David Mirick, b. May 16, 1741.
Marther, dr. of Danl. Lamb, Sept. 10, 1741.
Bethia, dr. of Phynias Chapin, Aug. 8, "
Jonathan, son of Jonathan Ely, Sept. 14, "
Bethia, dr. of Phineas Chapin, d. at Chicobe, Sept. 23, 1741.
Elisabeth, dr. of Saml. Warner, b. Oct. 7, '41.
Noah, son of Saml. Stebbins, Oct. 13, "
Marther, dr. of Danl. Lamb, Oct. 17, "
Jerushe, dr. of Danl. Warner, Aug. 17, "
Nathaniel, son of Nath'l. Bliss, Nov. 26, "
Enoch, son of David Chapin, Jan. 1, 1742.
Charles, son of Cornelius Chapin, Jan. 5, "
Thomas, son of David Mirick, d. Feb. 6, "
Darius, son of Dav. Warriner, b May 13, "
Jacop & Israel, of Benj. Warriner, May 19, "
Jaris, son of Phines Chapin, July 22, "
Charles, son of Aaron Parsons, Sept. 17, "
Benon'y Barnard Marsey Brooks, d. Aug. "
Mary, dr. of Saml. Stebbins, Aug. 27, "
Seth, son of Saml. Stebbins, Sept. 1, "
Isaac, son of Isaac Brewer, b. Aug. 17, "
Pharon, son of Phines Chapin, d Sept. 15, "
Moses, son of Moses Bartlit, b. Sept. 13, "
Eunis, dr. of Thomas Mirick May 8, "
Martha, dr. of Daniel Lamb, Oct. 21, "
Jonathan, son of Jonathan Ely, d. Nov. 8, "
Ester, dr. of Jonathan Ely, b. Dec. 18, "
Joseph, son of Joseph Sikes, April 9, 1743.
Silas, son of Abel Bliss, April 15, "
David, son of David Jones, Sept. 15, "
Gad, son of Daniel Lamb, d. Sept. 5, "
Loes, dr. of David Mirick, b. Oct. 12, "
Treypheny, dr. of John Brooks, Nov. 8, "
Bethia, dr. of Phineas Chapin, Aug. 24, "
Electy, dr. of Joseph Sheldin, Sept. 22, "
Nath'l Edw'd, of Sam. Warner, Jan. 24, 1744.
Simeon, son of Danl. Cadwell, Feb. 20, "
Hannah, dr. of John Jones, Feb. 29, "
Edatha, dr. of David Chapin, Mar. 15, "
Mary 2d, dr. of Saml. Stebbins, Mar. 25, "
Charles, son of David Warriner, Apr. 15, "
Elijah, son of Aron Parsons, Apr. 17, 1744.
Treypheny, dr of John Brooks, d. May 31, "
Othniel, son of 1744. John Hitchcock, b. Aug. 10,
Samuel, son of 1744. Moses Warriner, Aug. 30,
——, dr. of Marcy Brooks, Oct. 8, 1744.
William, son of Isaac Brewer, Nov. 8, "
Gad, son of Daniel Lamb, Nov. 9, "
Mather, dr. of 1745. Calep Stebbins, Feb. 15,
Elesaberth, dr of Moses Bartlit, Feb. 23, 1745.
Lidya, dr. of Jonathan Ely, Mar. 22, "
David & Jona., of Nath'l. Bliss, April 4, "
one that day was a fast upon the acoumpt of the Cape breton armey.
Levi, son of Abel Bliss, May 7, 1745.
Lucy, dr. of Joseph Sikes, July 13, 1745, in a very grate clap of thunder (!!).
Eunice, dr. of Joseph Shelden, Aug. 16, "
Gideon, son of Moses Burt, Aug. 16, "
Isaac, son of Benj. Warriner, Aug. 28, "
John Brooks, dyed Oct. 11, 1745.
Noah, son of Nov. 1, 1745. Rev. Mr. Noah Mirick, b.
John, son of 1746. John Hitchcock, Jan. 4,
Rachel, dr. of David Chapin, Jan 14, 1746.
Ruth, dr. of Steph'n Stebbins, Feb 10, "
Ruben, son of John Jones, Feb. 24, "
Joshua, son of Benony Atchason, Mar. 13, "
David, son of Daniel Warner, Apr. 11, "
" " " " d. " 12, "
Phannel, son of Saml. Warner, b. June 19, "
Ann, dr. of Moses Warriner, Aug. 10, "
Margarit, dr. of David Warriner, " 12, "
Jonathan, son of Jonathan Ely, Oct. 11, "
Levi, son of Daniel Cadwell, Oct. 13, "
Luse, dr. of Thos. Mirick, Nov. 11, "
Lydia, dr. of Saml. Bartlit, Nov. 16, "
Benjamin, son of Benj. Wright, Feb. 8, 1747.
Marcy, dr. of Saml. Stebbins, Feb. 12, "
Phinias, son of Phinies Chapin, Mar. 1, "
Jonathan, son of David Mirick, Mar. 21, "
Sarah, dr. of 4, 1747. Rev. Mr. Noah Mirick, J'ne
Asa, son of David Jones, June 12, 1747.
Thankfull, dr. of Danl. Warner, June 19, "
Thomas, son of Nath'l. Bliss, Nov. 25, "
Aaron, son of 1747. Aaron Stebbins, 2d, Dec. 18,
Elener, dr. of Moses Bartlit, Dec. 26, 1747.
Asa, son of 1748. Stephen Chapin, Jan. 22,
Jonathan, son of Joseph Sikes, Feb. 20, 1748.
Solomon, son of William King, Feb. 17, "
Jerusha, dr. of Daniel Lamb, May 2, "
Stephen, son of Daniel Cadwell, May 30, "

Rhoda, dr. of Benj. Colton, June 9, 1748.
Mary, dr. of Aaron Stebbins, June 19, "
Phebe, dr. of David Chapin, July 2, "
Daniel, son of Danl. Warner, d. " 22, "
Asuba, dr. of John Hitchcock, b Aug 6, "
Hannah, dr. of Stephen Stebbins, " 10, "
Marcy, dr. of Jonathan Ely, Sept. 7, "
Ann, dr. of Moses Warriner, d. Sept. 9, 1748.
Benjamin, son of Benj. Warriner, Sept. 16, 1748.
Noah, son of Moses Warriner, b. Oct. 27, 1748.
Charles, son of Isaac Brewer, Dec. 18, 1748. This was the first Baptised in our meeting hous.
Justin, son of Calup Stebbins, Jan 3, 1749.
Marcy, dr. of Saml. Bartlit, Mar. 1, "
Asenath, dr. of Saml. Warner, March 8, "
Rachel, dr. of Benj. Wright, Apr. 16, "
Abner, son of Abner Chapin, May 29, "
Chiliab Brain'd, Rev. Mr. Noah Mirick, May 31, 1749.
Lues, son of Lues Langdon, June 15, 1749.
Hannah, wife of Noah Alvord, d. Aug. 25, 1749.
Lydia, dr. of Jonathan Ely, Sept. 1, 1749.
Jonathan, son of David Warriner, b Sept. 16, 1749.
Joseph, son of Joseph Chapin, Sept. 27, 1749.
Abiah, dr. of Benj. Colton, d Oct 28, 1749.
Jerushe, dr. of Danl. Warner, Nov. 1, "
Persis, dr. of Benj. Warriner, b. Jan. 5, 1750.
Tabitha, dr. of Benony Atchinson, Jan. 13, 1750.
Abigale, dr. of Thos. Foot, d. Feb. 6, 1750.
Ephraim Bartlit, Deyed Feb. 19, in the 77th year of his Eage, he was the first male Child that was Born in Suffield.
Sarah, dr. of Wm. Stasey, b. Mar. 18, '50.
David, son of Benoni Banester, Mar. 19, 1750.
Aaron, son of Aaron Stebbins, Mar. 20, '50.
Moses, son of Moses Stebbins, May, 1750.
Loes, dr. of Moses Bartlit, May 18, 1750.
Jerusha, dr. of Henry Bagger, June 1750.
Jemina, dr. of William King, July 4, 1750.
Mary & Eunise, Aaron Stebbins 2d, Aug. 7 1750.
Aiener, dr. of Moses Bartlit, d. Sept. 1, '50.
Margarit, dr. of Stephen Davis, b. Sept. 17, 1750.
Stephen, son of Stephen Stebbins, Sept. '50.
Joanah, dr. of Dan. Cadwell, Sept. 30, '50.
Natha., son of Moses Warriner, Oct. 18, '50.
Obed(?)& Jona., David Chapin, Nov. 15, 1750. Both died same day.
Noah, son of Joseph Sikes, Dec. 9, 1750.
Lowis, dr. of Daniel Lamb, Dec. 22, 1750.
Benjamin son of Benj. Warriner, Mar. 3, '51.
Eunis, dr. of Sam. Bartlit, Mar. 21, 1751.
Gersham, son of Isaac Skinner, Mar. 30, 1751.
Lidya, dr. of Jona., Ely. April. 12, 1751.
Reubin, son of John Hitchcock, May 1, '51.
Stephen, son of Steph. Stebbins, d. " 24, '51.
Hannah, dr. of Sam. Warner, d. May 26, "
Mary, dr. of Benj. Wright, b. July 24, '51.
Calvin son of Moses Stebbins, July 30, '51.
Abigale, dr. of Abner Chapin, Aug. 14, '51.
Samuel, son of Sam. Stebbins, Sept. 8, 1751.
Mirye, dr. of Thomas Myrick, Sept. 9, '51.
Sam. Fist, [Fisk] Rev. Noah Mirick, " 13, '51.
Jarusha, dr. of Henry Bagger, d. Oct. 4. '51.
Abner, son of Simeon Willard, Nov. 15, '51.
Elizabeth, dr. of " " " 21, '51.
James, son of Aaron Stebbins, 1st, b. Dec. 31, 1751.
Mary, dr. of Lues Langdon, Jan. 11, '52.
David Justin, s. David Chapin, Jan. 14, 1752.
Lidaah, dr. of John Bliss, Mar. 9, 1752.
Joel, son of Aaron Stebbins, 2d, Mar. 11, 1752.
Samuel, son of Philip Leyon, Mar. 27. '52.
Stephen, son of Stephen Stebbins, April '52.
Lovice, dr. of Moses Burt, May 25, 1752.
Rachil Stiles, d. at Wales, buried here May 14, 1752.
—— son of Jas. Warriner, b. Ju. 4, 1752.
Nathaniel, s. of Henry Bagger, June, 1752.
Mihitabel, dr. of Benj. Skinner, b. Ju. 20, "
Elliner, dr. of Moses Bartlit, b. Ju. 25, "
Luse, dr. of Thos. Mirick, d. Oct. 15, 1752, new stile. And on 4th day old stile. This is the first in new stile.
Ebenezer, son of William. Stasey, b. Oct. n. s.
Luse, dr. of Wm. King, b. Nov. 19, 1752
Ann & Abner c. of Moses Warriner, b. Dec. 1, " old stile; 12, new stile.
Willard, son of Benj. " b. Feb. 17, 1753.
Mary, dr. of Eben., Bliss, b. Feb. 26, 1753
Moses, son of Jno. Hitchcock, b. Mar. 19, "
Keziah, dr. of Sam. Bartlit, b. Apl. 27, "
Judah, son of Jona. Ely, b. June 24, 1753.
——, son of Sam. Stebbins, b. July 17, died July 27, 1753.
Lidiah, dr. of Rev. Mr. Noah Mirick, b. July 20, 1753.
Soloman, son of James Warriner, b. Aug. 16, 1753.
Gaius, son of Isaac Brewer, Aug. 28, 1753.
Hannah, dr. of Isaac Skinner, Aug. 29, "
Mary, dr. of David Warriner, died Oct. 15, 1753.
James, son of James Twing, b. Nov. 28, '53.

Aaron, son of David Cadwell, Dec. 23, 1753.
Nathan, son of Joseph Sikes, b. Jan. 4, 1754.
Ester, dr. of Abner Chapin, Dec. 7, 1754.
Mary, wife of Samuel Stebbins, died Aug. 1750, att Longmeadow.
Samuel Stebbins who was the head of a famaly in this plase, Dyed att Somers the 10th Day of february, ye year 1754, in the 46th year of his age and left his 2d wife a widow.
Loviso, dr. of Daniel Lamb, b. Feb. 12, '54.
Dolly Pynchon, Marcy Warriner, Feb. 17, "
Hannah, wife of Isaac Colton, Jr., d. Mar. 11, 1754.
Ruth, dr. of Sam. Warriner, b. May. 14, "
David Chapen dyed May 16, 1754.
—— dr. of Ezra Barker, May 24, 1754.
Miream, wife of " " " 26, 1754.
Mary, wife of Sam. Warner, June 6, 1754.
Lamewell, son of Henry Bagger, b. July 3, 1754.
Lydia, dr. of Philip Lyon, July 19, 1754.
Jacob, son of Widow David Chapin, July 21, 1754. This child was born 9 weeks and 3 Days after its father's Derth.
Benj., son of Benj. Skinner, Ju. 21, 1754.
Seth, son of Aaron Stebbins, Sept. 5, "
Lovise, dr. of Moses Burt, d. Sept. 26, "
Moses, son of Moses Colton, b. Oct. 7, 1754.
—— c. of Aaron Stebbins Jr. d. Oct. 8.
Ester, dr. of Lewes Langdon, b. Nov. —
—— son of James Mirick Jr. Jan. 10, '55.
Lideah, dr. of John Bliss, d. Jan. 29, 1755.
Ester, dr. of Moses Stebbins, b. Jan. 28, "
Luse, dr. of Ebenezer Bliss, Jan. 30, "
Ester, dr. of Benj. Warriner, Feb. 19, "
Luther, son of William King, Mar. 22, "
Luse, dr. of Caleb Stebbins, Apl. 13, 1755.
Anne, dr. of Jabez Hendrick, March —
Elener, dr. of Samuel Warriner, May 12, "
Thankfull, dr. of Sam. Bartlit, May, 13, 1755.
Henry, son of Jona., Ely, May 15, 1755.
Sarah, dr. of John Langdon, Ju. 11, 1755.
Sarah, wife of " " died July 22, in the 22d year of her age, and 2d person yt was burid in the south buring place.
Plinney, son of Rev. Mr. Noah Mirick, born Sept 13, 1755.
Margarit, dr. of Abner Chapin, Sept. 24, 1755.
Moses, son of Daniel Cadwell, " 30, 1755.
Elisabeth, dr. of William Stacy, Oct, 29. 1755.
Mary, dr. of Nath. Hitchcock, d. Nov. 13.
Joseph, son of Henry Badger, Jan. 5, 1756.
Marcy (?) dr. of James Twing, b. Jan. 8, '56.
Daniel, son of Moses Warriner, " 16, 1756.
Lydia, dr. of John Bliss, Jan. 19, 1756.
Miream, dr. of James Warrener, " 22, '56.
Gad, son of Stephen Stebbins, Feb. 13, "
Apollus, son of Isaac Skinner, Feb. 17, 1756.
Apollus, son of Steph. Colton, d. Mar. 21, '56
Natha., son of Natha. Hitchcock, b. June 15, 1756.
—— dr. of Sam. Warriner, Ju. d. 28, "
Aaron, son of John Hitchcock, Sept. 1, "
—— son of Benj. Warriner, b. Sept. 20.
—— son of Ezekiel Wright, d. Sept. 20.
Icobod, son of Philip Lyon, Oct. 2, 1756.
John, son of Daniel Lamb, Oct. 2, "
Hannah. dr. of Joseph Sikes, Oct. 22, 1756.
Amhus, son of Moses Stebbins, October.
Reubin, son of Reubin Warriner, Nov. 17, 1756.
Louise, dr. of William King, Dec. 7, 1756.
Henry, son of Henry Wright, Dec. 17, "
Hannah dr. of Moses Colton, Dec. 26, 1756.
Capt. (?) Coats a Soldier, sickened and dyed January 4, 1757.
Sam'll, son of Philip Lyon, d. Jan. 12, 1757.
Oliver, son of John Bliss, Jan. 13, 1757.
Abigail, dr. of Stephen Colton, b. Jan. 27, "
Aaron, son of Benj. Wright Jr. " 28, 1757.
Martha, dr. of Aaron Stebbins, Feb. — "
Joseph, son of Henry Badger, Feb. — "
Lowis, dr. of Aaron Stebbins 2d, " — "
Ezra, son of Ezra Barker, Mar. 20, "
—— son of Sam. Warriner, d. Mar. 28, 1757.
Eliza., dr. of Jona. Ely, b. May 15, 1757.
Louise, dr. of Sam. Bartlit, July 11, 1757.
Doratha, dr. of Jabez Hendrick, Ju. 10, "
Comfort, dr. of Dan. Warriner, d. Ju. 14, 1757. She was the firs person born in this prescint.
Catarine, dr. of Stephen Bliss, b. Aug. 1757.
Leusee, dr. of Abner Chapin, Aug. 29. "
Lusee, dr. of Rev. Mr. Noah Mirick, b. September 4 and died the 10th, 1757.
Katarine, dr. of Joseph Miller, d. Sept. 12, '57.
Reubin, son of Reubin Colton, " 26, 1757.
Isaac Skinner, died October 3, 1757.
Rachel, dr. of Lewes Langdon, b. Oct. '57.
Elisabeth, dr. of Benj. Skinner, Oct. 2, 1757.
Mary, dr. of Nathaniel Hutchinson, d. October 24, 1757.
Lydah, dr. of Benj. Warriner Jr. Nov. 5, 1757.
Sarah, dr. of Reub. Warriner, Dec. 2, '57.
Dn David Mirick, of the fourth Church in Springfield, Dyed Nobr 30th 1757.
Sarah, dr. of Reubin Warriner, Jan. 17, 1758.
—— son of Sam. Warriner, Feb. 17, '58.
Hannah, dr. of Dan. Cadwell, b. Mar. 5, 1758.
Miream, dr. of Moses Warriner, Apl. 1, '58.
Ann, dr. of Ezra Barker, May 22, 1758.
Samuel, son of Paul Langdon, Sept. — '58.
—— son of James Warriner, 1758.

Samuel, son of Philip Lyon, in ye Somer.
Mable, son of James Twing, in ye Somer.
Abiah, dr. of John Bliss, —— 1758.
—— dr. of Stephen Colton, —— 1758.
Walter, son of William King, Nov. — 1758.
Ann, dr. of Samuel Warner, " 17, 1758.
—— dr. of Reubin Warriner, Nov. — "
Louise, dr. of William King d. Sept.—1758.
—— son of Reubin Warriner, Nov. "
Reuben Warriner, died Dec. 29, 1758.
Sarah, dr. of Natha., Hitchcock, b. Feb. 5, 1759.
—— son of Sam. Warriner, Feb. 22, '59.
—— dr. of Moses Stebbins, —— '58.
Icabut, son of Philip Lyon, d. Mar. 3, 1759.
John Wilson, s. John Langdon, b. Mar. 11, '59.
Moses, son of Moses Stebbins, d. Apl. '59.
Richard, son of William Stacy, April 1759.
Elizabeth, dr. Hy. Wright, b. Apl. 28, '59.
Clowe, 7th dr. of Samuel Bartlit, 1759.
Experience T. dr. Moses Colton, 1759.
Marcy dr. of Stephen Bliss, 1759.
Lovise dr. of Daniel Cadwell, 1759.
Luse dr. of Jabes Hendrick May 23, '59.
Mrs. Day dyed, bured west side y^e River, May 18, 1759.
Marcy, wife of Isaac Brewer, d. May 20, '59.
Widow Rachil Chapin, June 3, 1759.
Samuel Baker 1759.
Ezekil Wright, child 1759.
Ester, dr. of Lues Langdon "
Sergant Aaaron Stebins lost two children "
John son of Noah Bowker b. Jan. 17, 1760 died.
Benjamin son of Ezekial Russel b. 1759.
Jerusha. dr. of Henry Badger, 1759
Bershabe, dr. of Benjamin Warrener, Jr., Feb. 10, 1760.
Rebekah, dr. of Benjamin Skinner, Feb. 17, 1760.
David, son of Moses Stebbins, Feb. 1760
James son of Henry Chapin, Mar. 4, "
Achsah, dr. of Oliver Bliss, Mar. 13, "
Phebe, dr. of John Hitchcock, Mar. 18, 1760.
Isaac, son of Stephen Colton, April 12, 1760.
Samuel, son of Samuel Warriner, May 24, 1760.
Arthemus, John Langdon, May 25,
Mariah, dr. of Abner Chapin, June 7, 1760
Stephen, son of James Warriner, June 8,
Crease, dr. of Comfort Chaffee, June 22, 1760.
Thankful, dr. of Paul Langdon, June 27, '60
Mable, dr. of Philip Lyon, Aug. 9, 1760
Actilus (?) son of Lewis Langdon, (?) Aug. 22,
Isaac, son of Isaac Osborne, Sept. 18, '60.
James son of Aaron Stebbins, b. Oct. 4.
Actilus, son of John Langdon, d. Oct. 16.
Seth, son of Samuel Warner, Jr. b. Dec, 2, 1760.
Aaron, son of Aaron Parsons, Juner, Jan. 6, 1761.
Seth, son of Aaron Stebbins, 2d, Jan. 20,
Daniel Scar (?) Nath. Hitchcock, Jr. Jan. 29
John, son of James Twing, Jan. 27, 1761
Lusi, dr. of John Bliss, Mar. 1, 1761.
Rachil, dr. of Henry Wright, Mar. 3, '61.
Horace or Oliver William King, Mar. 24, '61.
Daniel, son of James Mason, Mar. 29, '61
——, dr. of John Bliss, d. Mar. 31, 1761.
Mary, the wife of William Stacey, Ap. 11, '61.
Aaron, son of Aaron Bliss, b. May, 9, 1761.
Martha, dr. of Silas Hitchcock, May, 28, '61.
Stephen, son of Stephen Bliss, June 24, '61.
Hannah, dr. of Samuel Warner, July 20, '61.
Louise, dr. of Henry Badger, July, 28, '61.
Nathan, son of Moses Colton, July 29, 1761.
Timothy, son of Thomas Mirick and Mary Mirick, was Bit By a Ratel Snake one Aug. the 7th, 1761, and Dyed within about two or three ours he being twenty two years two months and three Days old and vary near the point of marridge.
Abijah, son of Jabes Hendrick, b. Aug. 10,
John, son of Henry Chapin, Sept. 13, '61.
Simeon, son of John Hitchcock, Sept. 23,
Martha, dr. of Jonathan Kelborn, Sept. 29,
Aasa, son of Ezekel Russill, Oct. 16, '61
Elisabeth, dr. of William Stacy, d. Nov. 4, '61
Lt. P. Langdon Dyed Disember 3, 1761.
Aaron son of Samuel Warriner, b. Dec. 13
Ethan, son of Ezra Barker, Jan. 1, 1762.
Gad, son of Benjamin Warriner, Jan. 29
Samuel, son of Samuel Bartlit, Jan. 30. '62
Samuel, son of Abner Chapin, Jan. 31, '62.
Mary dr. of Oliver Bliss, Feb. 4, 1762.
——, son of Asa Simons, Feb. 12, 1762.
Sabrare, dr. of Stephen Colton, Mar. 17, '62.
Lucy, dr. of John Bliss, Mar. 28, 1762.
Joseph Millar has lost two children born here
Widow Sarah Sheldon, Dyed over the River and is Bured in this place Mar. 23, 1762.
James, son of John Langdon, b. Mar. —
Abigale, wife of Samuel Kilborn Dyed Brimfield, Ap. 4, 1762, Burid here.
Timothy, son of Moses Stebbins, b. Ap. 17,
Ensign Abel Bliss, Dyed Ap. 30, 1762, he was in the 54th year of his age.
Sarah, dr. of Joel Bliss, b. May 13, 1762.
Louise, dr. of Samuel Warner, Jr. May 26,
Martha, dr. of Asa Chaffe, May 19, 1762.
Bershabee, dr. of Comfort Chaffee June—, '62
Nathan, son of Samuel Brooks, July 2, 1762.
Noah, son of Rev. Mr. Noah Mirick of

Springfield fourth parish had Bin about three years in Collidge. Drowned at Camebridge on Thusday the 24th Day of June in year 1762 in the 17th year of his age.

Olive, dr. of Benjamin Skinner, b. July 4,
Noah, son of Joseph Sikes, d. July 11, '62
Silos, son of Joseph Jones, b. Aug. 26,
Jesse, son of Jesse Warner, Sept. 11, '62.
Aehsah, dr. of Joseph Sikes, Sept. 17,
Azubah, dr. of Isaac Osborn, Sept. 30, 1762.
Philip, son of Philip Lyon, Sept. 28, 1762.
Ester, dr. of Lewis Langdon, ——. 28, '62
Hannah Jones wife of David Jones, Dyed Nov. 30, 1762.
Enoch, son of Aaron Stebbins, 2d b. Jan. 5 1763.
——, Aaron Bliss, Jan. 13, died.
Elisha Ferres, child, dyed Jan. 13, 1763.
——, son of [defaced] Henry Wight, b. Mar. —, '63 b. Mar. 14, 1763.
Jerusha, dr. of Sept. —, 1759. Henry Badger, (omitted)
——, dr. of Tabatha Day, Mar. 20, 1763.
——, 1763, died Samuel Warriner, Ap. 28,
Luse, dr. of May 27, 1763. Nathll. Hitchcock, Jr., b.
Ethan, son of 1763, the first Child that was born in Wilbraham, after set of as a town. James Warriner, b. July 8,

Births, 366, deaths 65. In another place Warner numbers 88 deaths, which includes those in Wales and the Half mile, I presume.

K. p. 82.

MINISTRY AND SCHOOL LOTS. Page 81.

Dr. S. F. Merrick says, in his address, 1831, that the ministry and school lots were leased for nine hundred and ninety-nine years because they could not be sold. This is a mistake. They were sold. But they were leased year by year, before they were sold. I have before me a deed given to Oliver Bliss by a committee chosen by the town to sell a portion of the Ministry Lot, in the Second Division, making part of the farm of the late John Bliss. The deed is dated Feb. 29, 1776, and conveyed all "the land between the main and middle road," a strip "Thirty-seven Rods and four foots wide." Bliss agreed to pay "the sum of one Hundred and Twenty Two Pounds Ten Shillings Lawfull Money" for the Land. I have another deed, given to Jonathan Mirick, June 8, 1772, of a portion of the Ministry Lot in the Third Division, extending from the top of the mountain east of Mr. William V. Sessions's to the middle road. The "consideration" was "forty-one Pounds nine Shillings and Sixpence."

The school lands were leased for 1768, as follows: "To James Eddy £0. 3. 0; To Sam[l] Glover £0. 12. 0; To Isaiah Chaffee £0. 4. 0; to Amos Chaffee £0. 4. 0; To John Bliss £0. 6. 0: Total £1. 9. 0."

A considerable portion of the ministry lands were sold in 1772; for in that year the committee chosen to sell the lands delivered to the town "nine bonds for Money on Interest Due to said town on aeconnt of the sale of the Ministry Lands so far as they have sold of the same," viz: —

James Ferry, one,	Dated	June	8th,	1772,	£93.	2.	0
Jonathan Mirrick,	"	"	"	"	41.	10.	0
Ezekiel Russell,	"	"	1st,	"	10.	17.	8
Amos Hitchison,	"	May	28,	"	12.	10.	0
Joseph Dunham,	"	"	"	"	31.	18.	3
Benj. Farmin,	"	June	8,	"	39.	18.	0
Oliver Bliss,	"	"	"	"	27.	8.	0
Levi Bliss,	"	"	"	"	76.	9.	6
Caleb Stebbins,	"	"	"	"			
and over plus lands,					15.	0.	0
Total, "Lawfull Money,"					£349.	3.	5

In April 1769, it was voted "that the Com^tee which was chosen to Sell or Lease the School Lands in this town shall Sell or Lease the same in such manner as is most for the Interest and Benefit of this Town and according to their best skill and Judgement and that they give to the Purchasers good Title of or to the same by Lease or deed on behalf of this Town on conditions following (viz) that the purchaser or Purchasers shall at Bargaining for said Lands pay the Cost for the same, or find two good Sureties with themselves who shall be firmly Bound for Sure payment. further Voted * * * that said Committee make report of their doings to some future Meeting."

There is an article in the warrant for a meeting, Jan. 1, 1770, "to receive the Report of the Com^tee which was chosen *to lease or sell* the School Lands." Their report is not recorded; but a committee is chosen "to take care of the money which the School Lands were *sold* for, and to see to it that the same is safe and that the *Interist* of the same be paid yearly and lodged in the town treasury," etc.

In the same year an easement is made to Samuel Warner on the sum which he paid "for a part of the School Land since Warner *purchased* of the Town," etc. And finally it is said that the "Ministry Lands" were disposed of on the same conditions as the "School Lands." *They* were *sold*, not *leased*.

L. p. 84.

A LIST OF THE ROADS FIRST LAID OUT IN THE TOWN.

1. From the Brook at the Sand hill to Stafford & up to the north and South road near Joel Chaffee's. 1764 March
2. From David Warriner's west to Stony Hill, the west side of Outward Commons. 1764 March.
3. Alteration in Middle road from the late John Bliss's to Bay Road. 1764. March.
4. From Dea. John Adams's west to Spa line. April 1765.
5. From the First Road by Henry Badger's round by Butler's; altered from the Road 1764. 1767, March.
6. Road altered a few rods by Samuel Warner's in main St. or Road, 1767.
7. Road from Joel Chaffee's to Monson line, by David Lyon's, 1767.
8. From Jabez Hendrick's north to Bay Road.
9. From Moses Bartlett's, on middle road, to west Road at Dr. John Sterns's, 1768.
10. Road from Meeting house south of Philip Lyon's and Nath^{l} Bliss's. 1768.
11. Present Stony Hill Road from main road to the end of North West course, where it turns and runs Strait west, 1769
12. From Gideon Kibbe's North to "Longmeadow path," 1770.
13. From Jabez Hendrick's to Joel Chaffee's.
14. From Levi Bliss's, altered to Bay Road, 1771.
15. From the present School House by Mr. Cross's to Sp^{d} line, 1771.
16. From Monson line, East of Comfort Chaffee's west to north & south road, between John & Joel Chaffee's.
17. From Jabez Hendrick's north to east and west road on overplus land
18. From Monson line on overplus land to Middle Road.
19. From Monson line to Abner Badger's saw mill.
20. From the Scantic bridge, by Jacob Wood's.

M. p. 98.

ANCESTRY OF REV. NOAH MERRICK, ETC.

Thomas Mirick (as the name was then spelled) is said to have come from Wales through Roxbury and Hartford, and settled on the south side of Agawam River, in what is now called West Springfield. He married, July 7, 1639, Sarah, daughter of Rowland Stebbins, and for a second wife, 1653, Elizabeth Tilley, by whom he had James, 1670, the father of Noah, born August 6, 1711, the first minister of Wilbraham. Noah

graduated at Yale College, 1731. Nothing more is known of him till 1735. Where he studied theology I am unable to discover. I find an appropriation of £5. 10s. made for his preaching "two Sabbaths and one Thanksgiving" in Springfield, 1735, entered April 24th in the Records, and another, entered Feb., 1736, "for preaching two Sabbaths, £4." This was before the settlement of Rev. Mr. Breck. This is all I can learn of his history before his name appears on the records of Wilbraham. After his settlement here he was married, October, 1744, to Mrs. Abigail Brainard, widow of the Rev. Mr. Brainard, of Eastbury, Ct., and daughter of Rev. Phineas Fisk, of Haddam. He was called to attend councils and ordinations in adjoining towns and parishes. He was at John McKinstry's ordination as first minister in Chicopee, September 27, 1752. He preached from Matthew x. 16, at the fast held before the ordination of Joseph Lathrop, August 18, 1756, and he offered a prayer at the ordination, August 25. There were at this time but nine churches in the county, and but seven had pastors. Mr. Merrick attended the ordination of Sylvanus Griswold, first pastor of the second church in West Springfield, called Feeding Hills, November 17, 1762. The following entry in the journal of Dr. Samuel F. Merrick, his son, dated "Dec. 22, 1776," gives an account of Rev. Mr. Merrick's death and funeral: —

This day departed this life my Hon^{d} Father in the 66th year of his age & 36th of his ministry (if I mistake not) he having laboured under great bodily infirmities for many years & for about eleven months had not been able to preach at all, he declined gradually till the 21st instant a little before nine at night he was taken senseless and motionless. he lay in that situation till the next day, being Sunday, a little before three P. M. he closed his eyes in death & launched into the eternal world & left his wife and children to mourn for the loss of so good a Husband and Parent * * * * His body was decently interred the Wendsday following when a sermon suitable to the ocation was preached by the Rev. Mr. Breck of Springfield from those words in 2 Corinthians 4:7, we have the treasure in earthen vessels.

Mrs. Abigail Merrick, his wife, survived him thirty-one years, and died September 12, 1807, in the ninetieth year of her age.

The following is the inscription and epitaph on the table monument over their graves: —

Here lies interred the Body of
The Revened and Worthy

NOAH MERICK

Pastor of the Church of Christ
in this Town,

Who Died December ye 22, A. D. 1776,
in ye 66 year of his age
And 36th of his Mincstry.

O Thou great Arbiter of life and Death
———— With the Patriarchs joy

Thy call i follow to the land unknown
i trust in The and know in whom i trust

At his right side lies Abigail his wife
Who Died September 12th 1807 in the 98th
Year of her age.

As A Shock of Corn fully ripe
Cometh forth in its season

N. p. 99.

SETTING OFF THE SOUTH PARISH.

At town meeting, Dec. 24, 1781, a committee from out of town was chosen to consider the question of having two parishes.

REPORT OF THIS COMMITTEE.

To the Inhabitants of the town of Wilbraham:—

Gentlemen: We have taken into our Deliberate consideration (pursuant to your desire) the several matters you by your Committee thought fit to lay before us, which has brought to a determination, that some division of your Town is necessary, Concerning the manner of which you have been pleased to refer yourselves to us for aid and advice

Our opinion upon the matter submitted to us you have in the following report.

The Committee consider it a great unhappiness that a town so Respectable as the Town of Wilbraham is, Should in the management of their Publick affairs, suffer such animosities to arise amongst them, as to have any Tendency to prevent the general benefits and advantage that might otherwise arise to them, by inculcating those generous Sentiments of love and esteem, which is so essential to the well-being of every society.

Whether by the Local Situation of the Inhabitants of the several parts of said Town, or whether by the supposed or real Indiscretion of any persons; in the amicable management of your public affairs make it expedient that a Division should take place amongst you, we pretend not to say.

Though the manner of it seems only to be referred to us, yet we conceive it may not be improper to declare our Concurrence in Sentiment with you, that some Division is become necessary: Touching the mode of it and how it shall be made (which appears to be the principal object) —— It is the united opinion of the Committee and which they conceive will best accommodate the Inhabitants of the Several Parts of the Town that it be Divided into two Parishes, by the name of North and South Parishes, by a line Coinciding with the South Line of the Lot whereon Nathaniel Bliss Deceased lived, from the westward Bound of said town to Monson Line:— (with this exception) that the Inhabitants of said Town living on the west from the top of the mountain to the south side of Lieut Thomas Merrick's Lot to the westward Bounds of said Town with their Estates be annexed to the North Parish and that the Inhabitants living East from the top of the mountain from said South side of S^{d} Bliss's Lot north to the south side of Lot originally Laid out to Jonathan Taylor's Estate to Monson line, be annexed to the South Parish with their Estates, if each or any of said Inhabitants Should Choose so to do — they making their Choice previous to said Parish being Incorporated, and they thus Choosing to be annexed to the Respective Parishes forever.

And that each part of said Town have and Enjoy equal parts of the Land Sequestered for the use of the Ministry, or the Monies or Securities for money that may be in the Treasury — the proceeds of the Sale of Said Lands or any other money or Security for money or Donation for the support of the Gospel, be and remain to each Parish in equal parts.

And the Meeting House Standing in the North part of Said Town be and belong to the North Parish so long as they continue to meet in it for the Publick Worship of God.

Should that love and Union take place which your Committee earnestly recommend, and which is so Essential to the well being of every Society, they are of opinion, that said House be and remain, for the use of the whole of said Town for the purpose of carrying on their Meeting in future.

We sincerely wish that love and harmony may again take place among you, that we may have the satisfaction of Knowing that our poor Endeavors have in some measure Contributed toward the effecting an event so important.

We are Gentlemen with sentiments of Love and Esteem your Friends and Humble Servants.

JOHN HALE
LUKE BLISS
WM. PYNCHON, JR.

SPRINGFIELD, Feb. 21, 1782.

PETITION FOR INCORPORATION.

COMMON WEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS } *To the Hon^ble Senate & House of Representatives In General Court Assembled* —

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Wilbraham — Humbly sheweth — That Whereas it is of Great Importance that We Constantly attend upon the Preaching of the Gospel, and as by the Annexing of Wales to the South Part of S^d Town the Present Meeting House is much out of the Center — And By the Blessing of Heaven We are So Multiply'd that the attendance upon the Preaching of the Gospel is Rendered Very Difficult, and almost Impossible for Great Numbers, to Attend on a Preached Gospel and Whereas there is at Present No Settled Minister in S^d Town and as the Wants of a Division of S^d Town, Will Probably if not Inevitably Prevent the Settlement of one, to the Real Hurt of S^d Town — We are Humbly of Opinion that it is an Opportune Season to Have S^d Town Divided — and as We Hope We are Able to Support two Ministers and as Nature Has Seemed to form us for two Parishes Being Near Nine Miles North & South, and four Miles and an Half East & West — We The subscribers Therefore (in Behalf of this Town) Petition y^r Hon^rs to Incorporate this Town into two Parishes, By the Name of the North and South Parishes — By a Line Coinciding With the South Line of the Lot Whereon Nath^ll Bliss Deceased Liv'd, from the Westward Bounds of S^d Town to Monson Line: — (with this Exception) that the Inhabitants of S^d Town Living on the West from the Top of the Mountain To the South Side of L^t. Tho^s Mirick's Lot, to the Westward Bounds of S^d Town With their Estates, Be annexed to the North Parish and that The Inhabitants Living on the East from the Top of the Mountain from S^d South Side of S^d Bliss's Lot North to the South Side of the Lot Originally Laid out to Jonathan Taylor's Estate to Monson Line, Be annexed to the South Parish With Their Estates, If each or any of S^d Inhabitants Should Choose So to Do — They Making their Choice Previous to said Parishes Being Incorporated, and they thus Choosing, To Be annexed To the Respective Parishes forever ——

And that Each Part of S^d Town Have and Enjoy Equal Parts of the Land sequestered for the use of the Ministry, or the Monies or Securities for Money that may Be in the Treasury, the Proceeds of the Sale of S^d Land or any other money or security for Money or Donation for the support of the Gospel, Be and Remain to Each Parish in Equel Parts, And the Meeting House Standing in the North Part of S^d Town Be and Belong to the North Parish So Long as they Continue to Meet in it for the Publick Worship of God, —

This Petition for the substance of it is Agreeable to a Report of a Com^tee unanimously chosen By this Town, (which Report will accompany this Petition to y^er Hon^rs together with the Votes of the Town Relative thereto) To Advise this Town in What Manner to Be Divided, Which Report was Accepted By a Vote of the Town at A Legal Town Meeting, April 5, 1782 — and at the Same Meeting We the Subscribers, Were Chosen a Com^tee to Refer the above Petition to y^r Hon^rs Which We Pray y^r Hon^rs to Take into y^r Serious Consideration and act thereupon as you in your Wisdom Shall Think Best — as in Duty Bound We Ever Pray.

MOSES STEBBINS, ENOCH BURT, PHILIP LYON } *Com^tee of Wilbraham*

P. S. We Pray y^er Hon^rs to Annex L^t Tho^s Mirrick With His Estate to the North Parish, He Having made His Choice So to Be. Also Mr. David Wood to the South Parish With His Estate He Likewise Having made his Choice So to Be Or any other of S^d Inhabitants Included in Sa Com^tees Report they Signifying their choice to y^r Hon^rs Before Incorporation of S^d Parishes.

MOSES STEBBINS
ENOCH BURT
PHILIP LYON

Wilbraham April 8, 1782.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-TWO.

An Act for dividing the Town of Wilbraham into two Separate Parishes.

Whereas for the greater convenience of attending the public Worship of God it is found necessary to divide the Town of Wilbraham into Two Separate Parishes

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the Authority of the same that the said Town of Wilbraham be and the same is hereby divided into two separate Parishes by the names of the North Parish and the South Parish by a Line Coinciding with the South of the Lot whereon Nathaniel Bliss deceased lately lived from the West Bounds of said Town to Monson Line — and the Parishes above mentioned and each of them be and hereby are severally invested with all the Powers Rights and Privileges which Parishes in this Commonwealth are by Law invested with — and be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that Mr Thomas Merrick with his Lands and Estate be and he hereby is annexed to the north Parish abovementioned and David Wood, Jesse Carpenter and Jonah Beebe with their Lands and other Estate be and they hereby are annexed to the South Parish in the said Town, any thing in this act to the contrary nothwithstanding — And be it further Enacted that each of the Parishes aforesaid shall have and enjoy in equal Shares the Lands heretofore sequestered devised or given for the use or support of the ministry and the monies or Securities for money that may be in the Treasury and as well the Proceeds of the Sale of Lands as any other monies or Securities for money that have been given to the Inhabitants of the said Town for the support of the Gospel.

And be it further Enacted, that the Inhabitants of the north Parish

aforesaid shall have a Right to improve the meeting house now standing in the same Parish for the purposes of public Worship so long as they shall think proper so to improve it. And be it further Enacted that John Bliss Esq be and hereby is empowered to issue his Warrants to some principal Inhabitants of each of the said Parishes requiring them to warn the Inhabitants of the Parishes to which they respectively belong to meet at such time and place in each of the said Parishes as by such Warrants shall be duly specified and then choose such Officers as may be necessary to manage the Affairs of the said Parishes — And the Inhabitants qualified by Law to vote being so assembled shall be and hereby are impowered to choose such Officers in their respective Parishes accordingly.

In the House of Representatives June 20th 1782 This Bill having had three several Readings passed to be enacted

NATH GORHAM *Speaker*

In Senate June 20th 1782 This Bill having had two several Readings passed to be Enacted.

SAMUEL ADAMS *President*

Approved

JOHN HANCOCK.

O. p. 101.

VALUATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE TOWN OF WILBRAHAM, 1771.

	Polls Ratable.	Polls not Ratable.	Dwelling houses, &c.	Tun houses, &c.	Annual worth of whole Real Estate, deducting annual rents.	Money at interest.	Horses and Mares.	Oxen, 4 yrs. & up'ds.	Cows & Heifers 3 do.	Colts & Sheep 1 do.	Swine 1 yr. & up.	Acres of pasturage.	No. of Cows.	Acres of tillage.	Bush. of grain, all sorts, raised yearly.	Barr'ls Cider yearly.	Acres of mowing.	Tons of hay.	Acres fresh mead'w.	Tons of F. M. hay.	
Thomas Mirick...	2		1		£8 10	£220	2	4	4	23	2	4	4	10	50		2	2	15	7	
John Hitchcock...	2	2	2		10		2	2	3	12	2	10	10	23	153	7			16	12	
Noah Stebbins	1		1		9		1	2	4	4		12	12	4	31	15			9	9	
Nathaniel Bliss ...	4		1		9		3	3	3	16	4		4	8	48	25	2	3	9	5	
Philip Lyon	1		1		4		2		3	14	3	4	3	8	80				8	8	
Gideon Burt	1		1		6				1	13	2	8	8	3	45	10			10	8	
Moses Warriner ..	1		1		5		1	2	3	5		3	3	4	32	4			12	10	
Noah Warriner...	1				3		1		2	4	1	1	1	5	25				7	5	
James Warriner ..	3	1	1		12		2	7	6	25	6	3	3	38	150	5	4	4	20	16	
Moses Burt	3		1		15	15	3	7	8	22	3	8	8	20	100	20	4	3	10	12	
Nath'l Warriner ..	2		1		12	754	2	3	5	16	4	15	10	22	154	10	3	2	13	10	
Aaron Alvard	1		1		4	10	2	2	2	12	3	6	6	14	56	10	2	2	8	8	
Daniel Warner ...	1		1		9	10	3	4	4	8	1	6	6	15	100	12	3	2	16	12	
Phineas Newton ..	3		1		9		2	4	5	10	3	10	9	15	135	20			15	12	
Ezra Barker	1		1	1	2	10	4		1		1	4	2	10	50	7	1	1			
Enoch Chapin	2		1		2		50	1		2		2	5	3	1	10	8		3	2	
Isaac Brewer	1		1		3			2	2	2	7				22	132	6		2	2	
William Brewer ..	1				5			1			8		1	1	5	40	10	2	2	11	9
Eleazer Smith	1		1		4	10		1		3	6		2	3	50	50	8			6	5
David Warriner ..	3	1	1		14			2	2	4	12	5	6	6	40	280	4	2	2	11	11
John Sterns	1		1		3			2		2	6		3	4					2	2	
Samuel Warner...	1		1		4			1	5	2	6	3			11	66			18	14	
Daniel Murphy ...	2		1	1	5			1		1	6		5	3	15	120	6	2	2	4	4
Samuel Bartlett...	1		1		3	10		1		2	7	3	5	3	7	28	3	1	1	2	2
Abel Bliss	1		1		6			1	4	3	8	2		3	16	64				8	4
Nath'l Hitchcock .	2		2		4	10		1	5	3	8				18	108				20	15
Benj. Warriner ...	2	1	1		5	10			2	1	3	5	2	1	22	110	4	1	1	10	8
Nat. Hitchcock,Jr.	1		1			10		1	1	2	3	1	2	2							
Isaac Osborn	4		2		1	10				3	14	2		1	15	96		1	1	6	6
David Jones	2		1		3			2	2	3	8	1		1	7	42		2	1	1	1
Elisha Ferry.....	2		1		3	10			2	1	6	4			12	72				7	5
Benoni Atchason .	2		1		4	10		1	1	2	10	5			14	56				6	3

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

	Polls Ratable.	Polls not Ratable.	Dwelling houses, &c.	Tan houses, &c.	At'al worth of whole Real Estate, deducting annual interest.	Money at interest.	Horses and Mares.	Oxen, 4 yrs. & up's.	Cows & heifers 3 do.	Goats & Sheep 1 do.	Swine 1 yr. & up.	Acres of pasture.	No. of Cows.	Acres of tillage.	Bush. of grain, all sorts, raised yearly.	Barr'ls Cider yearly.	Acres of mowing.	Tons of hay.	Acres fresh mead'w.	Tons of F. M. hay.	
Sam'l Warner, Jr.	1	1			1 10				3	7	2			2	12				2	2	
Jesse Warner	1	1			4 10		1	4	4	2	2	3	2	17	102				10	7	
Moses Alvard.....	2	1			5		1	2	2	4	2	2	2	27	166				13	17	
Samuel Day	1	1			3 10		1	4	2	3	4			22	176				9	6	
Joseph Abbot.....	1	1			2		1	2	2	3	4			7	32				10	10	
Nath'l Bliss, Jr. ..	1	1			1 10			2	2	9	3			5	35				3	3	
James Eddy	4	2			11		1	10	4	14	9		3	30	150				21	14	
Caleb Stebbins....	3	2			15		2	3	5	20	2		4	20	100		1	1	18	13	
Joseph Firmin....	2	1			3 10		2		1		1										
John Crane.....	2	1			5		1	2	1		3		2	10	100		4	5	3	3	
Daniel Cadwell,Jr.	1				3 10			4	2	1		3	2	3	8						
Zebulon Chapin...	1	1			2		1	2	2	10	1	4		9	70				1	1	
Daniel Cadwell ...	2	1			9		1	2	5	15	2		8	18	108	5	4	4	12	8	
Lemuel Dunham..	2	1			3		1	2	1	5	2	8	1	4	40				5	3	
Paul Hitchcock ...	1	1			1		1	2	1		1										
Daniel Carpenter .	2								1												
James Twing	2	1					1	2	2	10	2	3	2	10	90	5	2	3	9	9	
Thomas Dunham .	1					41		4	2		2										
John Plumley	1						1		4												
Jonathan Ely.....	4	1			11	79	2	4	5	18	3	12	10	11	90	15	3	6	11	9	
Joseph Burnham .	2	1			20		1	2	2		2	8	6	2	40		2	3	12	6	
Moses Colton.....	3	1	1		3		2	2	10	26	4	18	12	14	100	18	7	7	18	14	
Stephen Bliss.....	1				4 10		1	1				7	4	7	30	7	2	1	7	4	
Joel Bliss.....	1	1			4 10			2	2	9	1	5	4	6	30				8	7	
Moses Stebbins ...	3	1			10 1		2	4	4	10	5	22	16	11	130	8	10	8	10	8	
John Bliss	1	1			11		2	4	6	15	3	17	12	7	100	7	8	8	7	8	
Enos Stebbins	1	1			6		1	2	3	6	3	2	5	5	50		2	2	12	8	
William Stacy	2	1			7		2	2	2	14	2	6	6	8	70	3	4	3	6	5	
Cary Burdick	1	1			2 10		1		2			7	4				3	2	3	2	
Samuel Sexton ...	2	1			8		1	2	2	10	2	12	8	10	100	6	2	2	12	9	
John Goodwell ..	1	1			3				1			5	3	3	50				5	4	
Joel Chaffee	1	1			3 10		1		3	8	2	2	2	6	60		1	1	3	3	
John Firnim.....	1	1			5 10	40	1	2	5	7	2	16	6	7	50	8	1	1	10	7	
William Wood....	1	1			4		1	2	1	8	1	6	4	6	40		2	2	6	4	
Nathan Answorth.	1	1			8		1	2	5		4	30	10	8	50	4	4	2	15	10	
James Prentice...		1			1 10				1		2		1	3	30				2	2	
Thomas Lewis....	1		1		3 10		1		2	12	2	3	3	3	24	5	2	3	5	4	
Joseph Jones.....	1	1			4 10		1	2	1	10	4	6	4	11	80		1	1	12	12	
Joseph Sharon ...	1	1			2		1		1	6	2	3	2	4	30				3	3	
Abel King.....	4				5 10		4	2	2	20	6	3	6	10	100		4	4	3	3	
Jabez Hendrick...	1	1			4 10		4	2	3	13	5	2	4	5	30				8	10	
Isaac Morris	2	1			3 10		1	2	3	5	1		2	3	30		1	1	8	6	
Joseph Chaffee....	2	1			4 10		1	2	2	8	2	2	3	6	50		2	2	8	6	
Abner Badger	1	1			5 10		1	4	1	4	2	5	8	8	60		3	3	7	7	
David Perry	1	1			2				1	7			1	2	30		1	1	2	1	
Joseph Butler	1				3 10		1		2	4			5	4	40		1	1	5	5	
Zadock Stebbins ..	1	1			3 10			2	2	6		3	4	4	40				8	7	
Simeon Chaffee ...	1	1			4 10			2	2	4	2	2	4	8	50		2	1	8	8	
John Chaffee	2				12		2		2	5	2			3	25						
Phineas Stebbins .	1	1			4		1		4	12	1			3	30		2	2	13	10	
William King.....	4	1	1		16		4	6	7	18	6	20	15	16	150		12	12	16	16	
Thomas King.....	1				2 10		1	2	1	10		4	4	5	50		3	3	5	5	
Ezekiel Russell ...	2				5		1	2	2	8	4	5	5	8	100		5	5	5	5	
William Tailler ...	1	1			4 10		1		1				1	18	122		1	1	14	9	
Eldad Stebbins ...	2	1			7 10		1	2	4	16	4	2	4	14	110	4	1	2	17	12	
David Burt	1	1			5		1	2	2	5	2	2	2	8	45		2	3	4	4	
Abner Chapin		2	1		5 10		1	2	5	16	3	3	4	14	110	6	3	4	8	6	
Paul Langdon	1	1			7		1		2	9	2	6	6	11	100	40	4	6	9	7	
John Langdon....	1	1			5		1	2	2	10	3	1	3	34	80	6	1	1	8	6	
John Williams....	2	2			12		2	3	2	9	1	60	16	5	40	50	2	2	26	20	
Jonathan Brown .		1			3									5	25				12	10	
Gideon Kibby.....	1	1			5 10		1	4	3	12	2	3	4	15	140		1	1	5	5	
Aaron Stebbins,2d.	2	1	1		8		3	4	4	12	6	2	4	16	130	2	3	3	10	10	
Aaron Stebbins...	3	1	1		7		1	4	3	12	7		3	20	140	7	2	2	12	10	
Asa Chaffee.....	2	1	1		1 10		1		1	6	1			4	20				3	3	
Lewis Langdon...	3	1	1		3		1		1		4										
Benj. Hutchinson.	2	1	1		1 10				4	8	3	2	3	3	40		2	1			
Jonathan Mirick..	2		1		18 10		3	9	4	7	6	10	12	40	280	20	2	3	22	22	
Names	100	163	11	92	4 545	9	1148	115	202	264	704	282	460	300	1012	6776	417	157	156	822	663

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NAMES OF THOSE WHO SIGNED THE NON-CONSUMPTION PLEDGE, 1774.

Paul Langdon,
Thomas Coleman,
Noah Stebbins,
Moses Warriner,
Thomas King,
Daniel Cadwell, Jr.
Jonathan Bliss,
Aaron Alvord,
Peleg Woodworth,
Henry Ely,
Stephen Cotton,
Noah Warriner,
Moses Stebbins, Jr.
Moses Bartlett, Jr.
Nathaniel Bliss,
Gabril Burnham,
Jonathan Ely, Jr.
Abel Bliss,
Levi Bliss,
Abner Badger,
Calvin Stebbins,
John Bliss,
Ezra Barker,
Joseph Chaffee,
Paul Hitchcock,
Rheuben Hitchcock,
Moses Burt, Jr.
David Warriner, Jr.
Abel King,
Rowland Thomas,
Jonathan Sikes,
Phinias Stebbins,
James Warriner,
John Langdon, 2d,
Nathaniel Warriner, 2d
John Jones,
Joseph Sikes,
Jesse Warner,
David Bliss,
Joseph Abbot,
Benoni Atchinson, Jr.
Silas Hitchcock,
John Hitchcock,
Thomas Jones,
Caleb Stebbins, Jr.
Martin Nash,
Nehemiah Abbot,
Abner Warriner,
Gideon Burt,
Amos Hutchinson,
Abner Chapin, Jr.
John Chaffee,
William Stacy,
Jesse Lambfaire,
Rowland Crocker,
Thomas Lewis,
Enos Stebbins,
Joel Chaffee,
Soloman King,
John Langdon,
Samuel Bartlett,
Ephraim Chapin,
Samuel Warner,
David Perry,
Lieutt. Thomas Mirick,
Serg't Moses Burt,
Dea. Natha. Warriner,
Joseph Burnham,
Benoni Atchinson,
Eleazer Smith,
Ser. Wm. King,
David Warriner,
David Lyon,
Abner Chapin,
Samuel Bebee,
Amos Chaffee,
Serg't Aaron Stebbins,
Serg't Daniel Cadwell,
Ebenezer Bebee,
Oliver Bliss,
Gideon Kibbee,
Jonathan Ely,
Nathaniel Hitchcock,
John Lumis,
Elijah Parsons,
Joseph Jones,
Lewis Langdon, Jr.
Isaac Dunham,
Joseph Bumsted,
Zadock Stebbins,
Stephen Bliss,
Zadock Bebee,
Moses Colton,
Simeon Chaffee,
Moses Bartlett,
Ezekiel Russel,
Jabes Hendrick,
Joseph Mason,
Ebenezer Crocker,
Samuel Dunham,
Thomas Bliss,
Ebenezer Stacy,
John Plumbey,
Nathan Ainsworth,
Moses Stebbins,
Samuel Sexton,
Asa Chaffee,
Justau Stebbins,
Asa Waukor,
David Chapin,
William Orsborn,
Zenas Jones,
Benjamin Wright,
Henry Wright,
Aaron Bliss,
Isaac Orsborn,
Ebenezar Thomas,
Samuel Warner, Jr.
Henry Chandler,
Charles Warriner,
Ephraim Wight,
Ephriam Wight, Jr.
Caleb Stebbins,
Levi Cadwell.

Q. p. 115.

LEXINGTON ALARM.

Decr. 5th 1775 A Roll of Capt. James Warriner's Company of Wilbraham who marched in defence of Ammerican Liberty on ye Alarm last April occasioned by th Lexington Fight with ye number of officers & soldiers, time of service distance from home what due to each according to his character agreeable to a late Resolve of the great and Genll court of this Colony (down to Ebenezer Cadwell — Then)

A list of a number of persons who went upon the Alarm last April occasioned by Lexington fight who did not Imbody under the command of any officer, an account of ye time of their service distance from & to home and what due. (the rest of the list) [*State Rolls.*]

	Time of Service Days.	Due.	Miles frm & .o home.	Due.	For Inn-holders. (1)	Sum Total.
James Warriner Capt	10	£2. 2. 9	180	15		£2.17. 9
Wm King Lit	10	1. 8. 6	180	15		2. 3. 6
John Hitchcock Lit	10	1. 5. 0	180	15		2. 0. 0
Enos Stebbins St	10	17. 1	180	15		1.12. 1
Thos King St	10	17. 1	180	15		1.12. 1
Aaron Alvard St	10	17. 1	180	15		1.12. 1
Elear Smith	10	14. 2	..	..		1. 9. 2
Samll Day	..	..	..	..		1. 9. 2
Josh Chaffee	..	..	..	..		
Samll Mirick						
Asa Chaffee			[same.]	[same.]		[same.]
Isaac Morris						
Moses Colton						
Chiliab Mirick						
Jona Cooley			160	13.4		1. 7. 8
Isaac Dunham			180	15.		1. 9. 2
Ezekiel Russell	[same.]	[same.]				
Reuben Thayer						
Benj. Farnham			[same.]	[same.]		[same.]
Comfort Chaffee						
Jesse Warner						
Jesse Carpenter						
Josh Jones						
Rowland Crocker						
Darius Chaffee	3	4. 3	60	5		0. 9. 3
Ebenr Cadwell	10	14. 2	180	15		19. 2
Joshua Eddy	..	14. 2	160	13.4		17. 6
Enos Clark	..	..	..	..		..
Ezekl Wright	..	..	..	..		..
Calvin Stebbins	8	11. 4	..	..		1. 4. 8
Thos Coleman	..	..	..	..		..
Gideon Burt	2	2.10	50	4.2		0. 7. 0
Abel King	2	..	..	..		..
Charles Brewer	..	..	..	..		..
Benj. Colton	10	14. 2	180	15		19. 2
John Stearns	..	..	..	..		..
						50.10. 5

Decr 5th 1775 The Persons above named living in the Town of Wilbraham who marched with their arms & ammunition occasd by Lexington fight some before & some came after me who pray that they may have pay agreeable to a late resolve of the Genll Court of this Colony agreeable to the services that are fixd to their names which is the time and service affixt to each man in this Roll according to ye best of my Knowledge

Attest JAMES WARRINER, *Captn*

Hampshire ss. Decr 13, 1775

The above named James Warriner personally appeared and made solemn Oath to the truth of the foregoing pay Roll by him subscribed

Sworn Before John Bliss *Just. Pec.*

1 It will be observed that these men run up no bills at taverns for the country to pay.

The following letter, borne by the messenger from Boston, has been found in the city clerk's office, Springfield, among the old papers recently opened : —

Watertown { Wednesday morning 10 clock

To all the Friends of american liberty be it known that this morning before break of Day a Brigade confisting of about 1000 or 1200 men Landed at Phips' Farm in Cambridge and marched to Lexington where they found a Company of our Colony militia in arms; upon whom they Fired without any Provocation & killed six & wounded four Others by an express this moment from Boston we find another Brigade are now on their march from Bofton supposed to be about 1000 The Bearer Mr Isaac Bifsell charged to alarm the country quite to Connecticutt and all Perfons are Desired to furnish him with such Forfes as they may be needed.

I have spoke with severall Perfons who have feen the Dead & wounded Pray lett the Delegates from this Colony to Connecticutt see this.

they know
J. Palmer

one of the Com. of S——y——
Colo Foster is one of the Delegates [1]

R. p. 116.

"A return of Capt. Paul Langdon's Company, in Col. Davidson's Reg[t] of all the men's names in s[d] Company, & Specifying what town Inlisted from of those Dead and of those on Command at Quebeck Oct. 6th 1775."

Paul Langdon Capt
Daniel Cadwell 1*st Lieut*

Sargts.

Noah Warriner
John Langdon
Philip Lyon

Corporals.

Aaron Stebbins
Othniel Hitchcock

Drums & Fifes

Charles ferry Drum[r]
Abner Warriner fifer

Privates Names

Daniel Carpenter
Aaron Cadwell
Jonathan Sikes on Command Quebeck
Seth Clark
Abner Chapin
Nathan Sikes
Moses Simons

1 I have not been able to learn any particulars of the Lexington alarm in Wilbraham except that the whole town was greatly excited, that couriers were sent about the town, and that the men assembled, before marching, in the barn referred to in the address. I have endeavored to give a description of the "alarm," which will convey to the present generation a true idea of the event, and still conform to the truth of history.

Phanuel Warner on command Quebeck	Josiah Swetland Somers gone to Quebeck
John Langdon 2d	John Davis Wibraham
Ichabod Barker Ludlow	Reuben Shayler
Cyprian Wright "	Nathaniel Mighets
Ezekiel Beebe "	Ephraim Dunham
Lothrop fuller "	Joseph Dunham
Solomon Cooley "	William Clark Belchertown
John Johnson "	Edward Cotton Ludlow
Joseph Jenings "	Moses Ellsworth East Windsor
Daniel Sweetland Somers, go to Quebeck	Ephraim Wight Jr Wilbraham, Dis.
Daniel Simons Wilbraham	Benjamin Chubb Dead
Charles Chooley Ludlow	Moses Rood
Simon Stacy Wilbraham	Eli Beebe
John Wilson Chaffee Wilbraham	Simeon Bates
Ephraim Wight " Disch[d]	Total, 45.

Roxbury Camp, December 25th, 1775.

To the Committee of Cloathing in Watertown we the Subscribers Soldiers in Capt. Paul Langdons Company in Col. Danielsons Regiment Desire you to Deliver for Each of us the money Due to us for a Coat which was Promised to us at the time of our Inlistment to Capt. Paul Langdon and his Receipt Shall be a Discharge from us as witness our hands.

his	Cyprean Wright,
Othniel × Hitchcock,	Lathrop Fuller,
mark	Joseph Jinnings,
John Langdon, 2d,	Eli Beebe,
Abner Warriner,	Simon Stacy,
Daniel Carpenter,	John Wilson Chaffee,
Aaron Cadwell,	Josiah Swetland,
Seth Clark,	Moses Ellsworth,
Abner Chapin,	Joseph Dunham,
Nathan Sikes,	John Davis,
Moses Simons,	Timothy Burr,
Aaron Stebbins,	Moses Rood.

I do hereby certify that the soldiers here named belong to my Company.

Paul Langdon.

Roxbury Camp Nov. 27, 1775.

To the Committee of Cloathing at Watertown We the Subscribers Soldiers in Capt Paul Langdon's Company and in Col Timothy Danielsons Reg Desire you to Deliver to Each one of us a Coat

Solomon Cooley, Charles Cooley,
Ichabod Beckwirth, John Johnson,

and this Receipt Shall be your Discharge

Per Paul Langdon *Capt*

Wilbraham Jan. 19, 1776.

To the Committee of Cloathing Gentlemen this may Sertify that Edward Colton Jonathan Sikes, Reuben Shayler and Phenuel Warner ware in my Company and have not Rec^{d} their coats.

Paul Langdon, *Capt.*

The following are the only letters of Revolutionary Correspondence which I have been able to obtain: —

Roxbury Camp July y^{e} 24th 1775

Dear wife these Comes with my tender affection to you hoping they will find you all well
through the great goodness of almighty God I am in a good Steat of helth for which I disier to be thank^{full} their was a man Shot through the breast with a muskit ball and Expierd that night it was Joseph wood that livd with mr Brown last Summer he was Shot last thursday night } last thursday a Party of our men with their whale Boats went to the light house and burnt it tuck five prisenors one boat and burnt another tuck two Swevels guns they broke of the lamps two barrels of power two of oyl without the loss of a man their is a great deal of news in the Camp^{t} but I cant write more I See majr Bliss he told me you ware well
I should be glad to have a pair of white linnen breach^{es} my old Sockens are wore out almost I would have you hier Som help to do your haying and harvest and do as well as you can and the Lord bless you all
my love to my dear Children John & James be good boys and be kind to your mother no more but I remain your most affectionate Husband. John Langdon
my duty to my hon^{d} mother & al friends in heast

Roxbury Camp July 31^{d} 1775

Dear wife these may inform you that through the great goodness of almighty god I am in a good State of helth and I Hope that you enjoy the Like Blissing I Rec^{d} your letter dated July 24th which I Rec^{d} Very gladly whereen you told me you had done haying & reping the wheat for which I am glad to hear but Desier to be humble under the frowns of Divine Providence in Cuting Short our Crops of grain but let us be thankfull that we injoy So many Blissings, while god's judgments are abroad in the land and notwithstanding our God Provoking Sins that abound in our Camp and Else where let us be Still and Know that the Lord Reigns and wach and pray lest we Enter in to temptation. Last night their was a regular Came from Boston he Says that he Swam out he Brought out one gun two Catrige Boxes he has gone ^{to} head Quarters at Cambridge he Says they are Very Sickly at Boston & farther Says not Last night we ware alarm^{d} about one or two o clock at night their was a Very hot fire Betwene Putnums lins and the regulars and likewise at Boston neck we went to our larum Post and the cannon play^{d} and Booms flue Very Brisk one Came Clost by the meating house and another Jest be yond but None was hurt Save one man Slitly wounded with one of the Shels we hear this morning that they have Kild two Regulars and tuck their guns but the news is we have none kild nor wonnded!
you desier^{d} me to $_{A}$ $^{A\ let\ you\ know}$ who was Sick in our company Eli Bebee and Daniel simons has ben Sick but are a geting better Nathaniel mials and Ephriem Dunham is at the hospatal we hope not dangerous we expect mials home to day

John Lang^{don} is well & abner Chapin is$_{A}$ ^{A} ^{well} Jeriah and Daniel Swetland are well moses Simons is well I want to Come home but when I dont know they will not give a furlow to any at Present but I would have you Carry on Business as well as you Can.

While I am wrighting their is news Come that a partty of our men$_{A}$ ^{A} ^{who} went out Last night to light house Point they have taken twenty moriens and five Torys and they Say 5 or six ware kild of the Enemy one of our men kild on the Spot and two or three wounded the account is Some Imparfect but pretty near true No more at Present but I Remain

Your tender and most affectinate
Husband til Death

JOHN LANGDON

Give my Duty to my Hon^{d} Mother and my Dear Children Praying that God would Keep you from Sin and be obedient from your Loving father

JOHN LANGDON

Capt Langdon is well & Desiers to be Rememb^{d} to his family and all friends

S. p. 117.

SERVICE AT TICONDEROGA.

From "Various Service, 938–1179."

A Pay roll of Cap$_{t}$ Daniel Cadwell's Company in Col^{o} Tim^{o} Robinson's Detachment of Militia From the State of Massachusetts Pay For Services done the United States of America at Ticonderoga From Dec. 5, 1776 *To April* 2^{d} 1777 *Included dated at Springfield May* 27th 1777 *for the Bounty and two pence a mile More allowed by the State.*

Daniel Cadwell, *Capt.*	Judah Moore, *Dr.*	John Hitchcock,	
Daniel Parsons, 1st *Lt.*	William Colton Fifer,	Isaac Morris,	
Robert McMaster, 2^{d} *Lt.*	Luther Bliss,	Moses Stebbins,	
John Colton, *Sr.*	Ebenezer Bebee,	James Shaw,	
Joseph Abbott,	Steward Bebee,	Samuel Warner,	
John McKlewain, *Sr.*	Zadock Bebee,	Daniel Chapin,	
Stephen Wright, "	Jesse Carpender,	Judah Chapin,	
Medad Stebbins, *Cor.*	Asa Chaffee,	Jesse Lampheare,	
Abner Warriner, "	Amos Chaffee,	John Stebbins,	
Aaron Colton, "	John Hancock,	Perez Hitchcock.	
Joseph Colton, "	Jabez Hancock,		

180 miles travel £7. 7s. bounty 99 Days Service Wages per month 60s.

BENNINGTON ALARM, 1777.

From "Various Service, 1986–2160."

Capt. James Shaw's Company detatched for the Regt whereof Charles Pynchon Esq is Colo and ordered to join Gen. Gates army for thirty days Unless sooner Discharged.

Each man Entered Sept. 24. Discharged October 18. Miles traveled home 140 — mileage at 1d per mile, 11s 8; Days in Service 32 — wages for Continental Pay, Capt £12. 16s, Lieuts. Each £8. 12, 9, Serjents £2. 10, Privates £2. 7.

James Shaw, *Capt.*
Joseph Sexton, *Sergt.*
Charles Ferry, *Sergt.*
Gad Lamb, Do.
Gaius Brewer, "
Josiah Cooley, *Corl*
Aaron Chanwell, Do.
Abenor Chapin, Do.
Medad Stebbins, do.
Calvin Stebbins, *fifer*,
Gordin Percival, Private,
Samuel F. Merrick, Do.
Edward Colton,
Jona Leech,
Jona Merrick,
Luther Hitchcock,
Benj. Howard,
Solomon Loomis,
Geo. Cooley,
Nathl Warner,
David Bliss,
Asa Jones,
Solomon Warriner,
Phinehas Hitchcock,
Comfort Chafee,
Timothy Worthington,
Daniel Sweetland,
Solomon Lothrop,
Oliver King(*Lieut.*)
Jabin Ja[bez] Cooley,
David Wood
John Charterton,
Luther Cooley,
Reuben Warriner,
Israel Chapin, *Lieut.*
John Colton,
Leml Whitney,
Elijah Parsons,
Judah Ely,
John Langdon,
Edward Morris,
Jesse Lamphere.
Aaron Stebbins,
Judah Willey,
Isaac Morris,
David White,
Matthew Keep,
Asa Simonds,
Aaron Howard,
Zadock Stebbins,
Noah Stebbins, *Lieut.*
Ebenr Colton, *Lieut.*

T. p. 121.

JOURNAL OF SAMUEL F. MERRICK, M.D., ON THE EXPEDITION OF THE WILBRAHAM COMPANY AT THE "BENNINGTON ALARM." [1]

1777. Sept. 29. About two in the afternoon set out from home on an expedition to the northern army, arrived at Springfield, tarried till night then dismissed then dismissed till to morning nine o clock, passed the river with Lent. King in order to lodge with uncle Merrick. 30 met according to order and after deliberating till about four o clock we proceeded on our march. Lent. King returned to bring up the rear. Went to my uncles to lodge again the company proceeded forward.

Oct. 1. about nine o clock set out, overtook the company at Peas, went in company with them about four miles, put up at Crockers lodged at the next house.

Oct. 2. Seargant Lamb and Brewer with Solomon Warriner & myself proceeded forward in order to put out our horses, went as far as Lanesborough, after much difficulty got entertainment at one Powels near the middle of the town.

3d. Turned to the Eastward Bush Meadow, after much difficulty got our horses put out at East Hoosuch at Major Roger Rose where we lodged.

[1] Dr. Merrick was a private in the company.

4th. Took my horse in to Williamstown, sent him back to S^{d} Rose and marched on foot about four miles on the road to Bennington then turned to the left and went about six miles to one Co^{l} Plat.

5th. Sunday marched in about five miles of the way at Tulls mills so called, lodged at one Tyashoke (?)

6th. Set out in the morning and arrived there soon, found that our troops were all ordered up the River, Ordered to encamp till further orders. In the afternoon heard canon briskly towards head quarter; very anxious to hear the event.

7. This day about four O clock canon play very briskly followed with small arms & continued till dark, went upon guard this night.

8. This morning an express arrived from head quarters informing that Gen. Gates had caried sundry Redoubts & all the Enemys out lines and twas expected by the motions that they would retreat soon, likewise with orders for us to Press forward with all dispatch, accordingly half after twelve we marcht and travilled till sunset about twelve miles.

9. Gen. Barly from N. Hampshire lodged in the same house with us last night, two expresses arrived informing that the enemy were actually on the retreat, orders for us to make no delay in order to harass them upon their retreat. set out very early and arrived at Batter Hill before noon about three miles from Saratoga. a very rainy afternoon. soon after our arrival there was an alarm that the Enemy was upon us, but it proved to be false.

10. Lodged in a corn house last night, about midnight there was another allarm but this likewise Proved false. In the morning concluded to join Col. Porter, but before we did he marched down to the river, we followed on but was ordered more to the southward, which we obeyed and reconoitering the shore found a boat ashore which we were guarding when a number of others came floating down which we took, lodged here this night.

11. Had a very uncomfortable night having nothing but my great Coat to cover myself, in the morning ordered to come here till further orders, this day tooch sundry other boats.

12. Continue still to guard the boats, the Enemy are now about a mile below the church, there has been a scattering fire ever since the retreat bgan and still continues nothing material hapening the army excepting Gen. Gates sent in a flagg demanding a surrender, but I have heard no answer. This morning Gen. Nickson made an attack upon the enemy but by mistake Gen. Learned who was to attack them in the west at the same time delayed about fifteen minutes after a severe fire a few minutes was obliged to retreat

13. Nothing material

14. Ordered that there be a cessation of arms till sun set. Sundry flaggs passing back and forth, in the evening reported that Gen. Burgoine had agreed to resign himself and army Prisoners of war, to march out to morrow morning.

15. Went over to Saratoga in expectation of seeing the Enemy march out, and after waiting the whole day was obliged to return without having my expectations answered but with great confidence reported that the stipulation was actually signed and that it was to take place to morrow.

16. Waiting to see the army march out but by some reason or other is delayed, towards evening heard that it was put off till tomorrow.

17. *A day never to be forgotten by the American States.* About Eleven O clock

A. M. Gen. Burgoine with a number of Other officers rode out, escorted by sundry officers of the Continental army and a little south of the church was met by Gen. Gates, and after a polite compliment proceeded to head quarters; about two the army began to march out. I taried till after four when I returned. They had not all then marched out, but I believe nearly, the number can by no means ascertain but should be inclined to think between five and six thousand but I am by no means a competent judge, tho' I had a good view of them. The Lord be praised for this wonderfull token of divine favor for which we cannot be sufficiently thankfull."

I have also obtained the Journal which Dr. Merrick kept when he was surgeon in Col. Porter's Regiment, which marched 1776, the year before the "Bennington Alarm," to reinforce the "Northern Army," then pressing into Canada, and a portion of it besieging Quebec. The "Journal" commences "May 1." The doctor left home April 22, as I judge from his "Account of Expences," — for the first leaf of the Journal is nearly destroyed, — and continues to "Sept. 16." The Journal ends with the commencement of his journey home. It contains thirteen closely-written leaves or twenty-six pages. As there were no other Wilbraham soldiers, as I can learn, in this regiment, I have not thought it best to attempt any abstract of the Journal for this Appendix.

A few items from his account of "Sundries carried into Canada," dated "April 19, 1776," may not be out of place. The upper corner of the leaf has been burnt off: —

"——— Holland, & fine home spun shirts; —— pr of yarn, two of worsted —— of cotton stockings; —— Handkerchiefs, lost; —— Neck bands, three pr shoes, a Bear skin Coat, Blue Vest, Black Do., Blue Breaches, Leather Do.; a pr Black trowses, a & Baise Gown; One Black ; one black neck Band; one pr Boots; one Great Coat; one pr of woolen gloves; One pr Leather Do.; one towel; one sword; one Baise under waistcoat ; Allso one Case of Instruments, A pipe syringe, a pr Tooth Drawers."

"An account of Medicines caried with me to Canada," follows: —

"Viz: Elix Camph 1s; Hiera Püra, 1s, 6d; Pulv Red Rhei 2s. 6d; Pulv Jalep, 2s; Pulv. Ipeca. 1s; Tart Emet, 1s; one Vial, 4d; Pill Cathart. 3s; Pill Artehemood (?) 1s. 6d." Total "13s. 10d."

The following men did service at such times and places as are recorded below: —[1]

EIGHT MONTHS' SERVICE.

"Levi Bannister, of Willboroughham," was a fifer in Capt. Malcom

[1] Furnished by Alanson Hawley, Esq., in the office of the Secretary of State.

Henry's company, Col. David Brewer's regiment. He afterwards enlisted into the Continental Army for three years, and served as a drummer in Capt Colton's Company, Colonel Greaton's Regiment, from January 1, 1777, to March 1, 1779, when he deserted. He returned to duty, however, in July 1780, and served as a private from July 20th to the close of the year.

Daniel Colton was a private in Capt. Isaac Colton's company, Col. David Brewer's regiment. Luther King was a fifer, and Paul Newton and Solomon King were privates in the same company. Solomon King died in the service, September 28, 1775.

In "a list of men drafted for 9 months' service from the time of their arrival at Fishkill: Also for 8 months, to complete a former deficiency," in 1778, I find the following :—

NINE MONTHS.

"*Wilberham.*"

1. Lewis Landgdon,
2. John Colkins,
3. Moses Albert,
4. John Russell,
5. Joseph Cutt,
6. Zadoc Benton,
7. John Huntley.

Brig. Gen. J. Glover acknowledges the arrival of Joseph Cutt and Zadoc Benton, with 52 others, at Fort Arnold, July 10, 1778.

Moses Albert, it seems, did not pass muster in consequence of having lost half of one of his feet; and Joseph Cutt, be it recorded, was a negro.

The eight months' men were Samuel Calking and Jonathan Polley, who arrived at Fishkill June 15, and were attached to Greaton's regiment.

The following are the names of "Six Months' Soldiers belonging to the town of Wilbraham, that served in the Continental Army of the United States of America in the year 1780."

David Allin,
Daniel Mason,
John James Sikes,
Reuben Abbott,
Ethan Smith,
Seth Warner,
Ebenezer Thomas,
Gad Warriner,
John White,
Isaiah Chaffee,
Titus Ammidown,
Henry Wright,
John Orcutt,
Joseph Bumpsted,
Zenas Cone,
Gaius Stebbins,
Stephen Simons,
Kittridge Davis,
Emmons Lillie.

These men went into service as follows: Emmons Lillie, John J. Sikes, Daniel Mason, Seth Warner, Gad Warriner, Ebenezer Thomas,

Ethan Smith, and Reuben Abbott, arrived at Springfield July 3, and marched thence on the same day, under Lieut. Daniel Frye, of the Artificers' Corps, to join the army. John White, Titus Ammidown, and Isaiah Chaffee arrived there two days later, and marched under command of Lieut. Taylor, of the Second Massachusetts Regiment. Joseph Bump (Bumpstead ?), Gaius Stebbins, Kittridge Davis, Zenas Cone, and Stephen Simonds arrived July 18, and David Allin and John Orcutt still later. David Allin deserted finally.

CONTINENTAL ARMY.

Jonas Banton enlisted into the Continental Army for three years, and served as a private in "the late Capt. Colton's Company," Col. Greaton's Regiment, from January 1, 1777, to January 23, 1778, when he was reported to have deserted. I judge that the report did him injustice, however, inasmuch as afterwards, by virtue of a certificate from one Dr. Foster, he was not only paid for nine months and seven days' service, from January 23, aforesaid, but was also allowed five pounds and fifteen shillings for "delay and interest."

Nathaniel Hitchcock enlisted into the Continental Army for three years, and is credited for service as a private in Major Ball's company, Col. Sheppard's regiment, from February 25, 1777, to December 31, 1780, although the account of his service bears the following qualifying memorandum: "Never present with the regiment since 1777."

Samuel Lyon enlisted for three years, and served as a private in the second company, Col. Marshall's regiment, from March 9, 1777, to the day of his death, July 23, 1778.

John Raymont enlisted for three years, and served his full time, from March 1, 1777, a part of the time serving as corporal.

Asa Woodworth, enlisted "for the war," and served as a private in the third company, Capt. Warner's, in Col. Brooks's regiment, from May 5, 1778, to December 31, 1780.

Peleg Burdick enlisted for three years, and served as a private in Capt. Sizer's company, Col. Baldwin's regiment, from March 13, 1778, to Sept. 30, 1779, when he deserted.

Phineas Mason enlisted for three years, and served as a private in the same company from March 12, 1778, to Nov. 16, 1779, when he, too, deserted.

The following Wilbraham men served at some time under Capt. John Carpenter: —

Nathan Ainsworth, Jotham Carpenter, Chester Morris,

John Ammidown,	Philip Lyon,	Johnson Richardson,
Isaiah Chaffee,	Josiah Langdon,	James Richardson.
	Reuben Carpenter,	

The following served under Capt. Abel King, Col. Ashley's regiment: —

Jesse Elwell,	Jabez Percival,	John White,
Eliphalet Hodges,	Johnson Richardson,	Francis West.

The following under Capt, J. C. or J. L. Woodbridge, Col. Tyler's regiment: —

Cæsar Mirrick, a negro,	Gaius Stebbins,	Oliver Sexton.

The following under Capt. Joseph Browning, Col. Seth Murray's regiment: —

Asa Hill,	John Thwing.

Israel Conant, of Wilbraham, served as a private in Capt. Cooper's company, Col. Bradford's Regiment.

In Capt. Reuben Munn's company, Col. Nathan Dyke's regiment, on service in Boston and vicinity, in 1776, I find the names of the following Wilbraham men: —

Daniel Bliss, *Sergeant*,	James Eddy,	Aaron Hitchcock,
Zadock Stebbins, *Corporal*,	John Russell,	Gamaliel Dunham.
Jos. Bumpstead, *Drummer*,	Peleg Burdick,	

Capt. Munn was from Monson. I find one roll of the company dated Roxbury, Sept. 17, 1776, with a memorandum indicating that the company had then been in service three months, and another dated Boston, Nov. 26.

SOLDIERS WHO DIED OR WERE KILLED IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

Benjamin Chob, 1775.		Malam Dunham, Roxbury,	1776.
Solomon King, "		Joseph Butler, "	
Nathaniel Miles, Army of Canada,	1776.	Daniel Warriner, Albany,	1777.
Phanuel Warner, " " "		Capt. Dan. Cadwell, North'n Army,	"
George Mirick, " " "		Serj. Joseph Abbott, " " "	
Aaron Bliss, " " "		Samuel Lyon, 1778.	
Joseph Morris, Ticonderoga.	"	Moses Simons, White Plains,	1780.
Benjamin Russell, "	"	John Chaffee, near Little Falls,	"
Josiah Wright,	"	Luther Ainsworth, " " "	
Joshua Leach,	"	Isaac Skinner, by Indians,	"

In all, 20. Killed in battle, 4. Died by disease, 16.

REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONERS.

Ezra Barton,	$30.00 per year.	David Stebbins,	24.00 per year.
Henry Wright,	96.00 "	Samuel Chapin,	24.00 "
Levi Thayer,	96.00 "	Stephen Merril,	24.00 "
Samuel F. Mirrick,	246.66 "	—— Learned,	96.00 "
Asaph King,	180.00 "	—— Chaffee,	24.00 "
Capt. Shield,	120.00 "	Reuben Hitchcock,	24.00 "
—— Walbridge,	80.00 "	John Hamlin,	96.00 "
—— Lewis,	96.00 "	Charles Cooley,	36.00 "
Samuel Lyman,	33.33 "		
Robert Sessions,	48.00 "		$1,373.99

As near as I can judge, there were about three hundred Wilbraham men in the Revolutionary war. The number cannot be determined precisely.

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SUBSCRIPTION FOR SOLDIERS' BOUNTY.

Mr. Samll. Warner	$50	Sergt Daniel Cadwell	30	Serg't David Bliss	20
Lt. Eben., Russel	40	Mr. Moses Stebbins	39	Jonathan Bliss	20
Mr. Eleazer Smith	6	Lt. Thomas King	30	Benoni Atkinson, Jr	20
Col. John Bliss	45	Mr. Lewis Langdon	20	William King, Jr	50
Mr. Latham Burdick	7	Moses Stebbins, Jr	8	Mr. Asa Chaffee	10
Lt. John Hitchcock	55	William Brewer	20	Moses Burt, Jr	20
Mr. Rowland Crocker	20	Lt. Jesse Warner	50	David Warriner, Jr	32
Capt. Abel King	40	Serg't Gideon Burt	10	Chileab B. Merrick	30
Sergt Philip Lion	40	Capt. Paul Langdon	40	Thomas Maxon	30
Mr. Wm. Stacy	14	Joshua Edy	30	Noah Warriner	20
Mr. John Williams	38	Mr. Joel Chaffee	7	John Glover	30
Mr. Ezekiel Russel	30	Serg't John Langdon	20	Mr. David Burt	50
Lt. Noah Stebbins	17	Lt. William King	6	Doct. Sam. F. Mirick	30
Lt. Gideon Kibbe	10	Gaius Brewer	30		
Mr. John Firmin	7	Mr. Comfort Chaffee	6		

Attest, NOAH WARRINER,

Town Clerk.

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DEPRECIATION OF CURRENCY DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

The following table is taken from Hon. David Wilder's History of the town of Leominster, in this State, and gives in a compact form a very correct view of the value, or worthlessness rather, of paper money at that time : —

SCALE OF DEPRECIATION.

Agreeable to an Act of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to be observed as a Rule for settling the rate on contracts made since Jan. 1, 1777, $1 in gold and sil-

ver, Jan. 1, 1777, being equal to $1.05 in the Bills of the credit of the United States.

1777.

January, . .	$1.05	April, . . .	$1.12	July, . . .	$1.25	October, . .	$2.75
February, .	1.07	May, . . .	1.15	August, . .	1.50	November, .	3.00
March, . .	1.09	June, . . .	1.20	September, .	1.75	December, .	3.10

1778.

January, . .	3.25	April, . . .	4.00	July, . . .	4.25	October, . .	5.00
February, .	3.50	May, . . .	4.00	August, . .	4.50	November, .	5.45
March, . .	3.75	June, . . .	4.00	September, .	4.75	December, .	6.34

1779.

January, . .	7.42	April, . . .	11.04	July, . . .	14.77	October, . .	20.30
February, .	8.68	May, . . .	12.15	August, . .	16.30	November, .	23.08
March, . .	10.00	June, . . .	13.42	September, .	18.00	December, .	25.93

1780.

January, . .	29.34	February, .	33.22	March, . .	37.36	April, . . .	40.00

From April 1st to 20th, 1780, one Spanish milled dollar was equal to forty of the old emission.

April 25, . .	$42	May 20, . .	$54	June 20, . .	$69	Nov. 30, . .	$74
" 30, . .	44	" 25, . .	60	Aug. 15, . .	70	1781.	
May 5, . .	46	" 30, . .	62	Sept. 10, . .	71	Feb. 27, . .	75
" 10, . .	47	June 10, . .	64	Oct. 15, . .	72		
" 15, . .	49	" 15, . .	68	Nov. 10, . .	73		

A new emission of paper was now made. Its value was as follows: —

From February 27	to May 1,	$1,37 1-2	to a silver dollar.		
" May 1	" " 25,	2.25	"	"	
" " 25	" June 15,	3.00	"	"	
" June 15	" October 1,	4.00	"	"	

It will be seen, at a glance, that the attempt to collect debts in silver which were contracted in paper currency was calculated to provoke a rebellion. A man who borrowed a hundred dollars must pay four thousand or lose his farm. The first emission became worthless after the issue of the second. A pound of the bills was not worth a pound of butter.

My grandfather, Eldad Stebbins, was constable in 1776. There is a tradition preserved among the papers of Calvin Stebbins to this effect: — The depreciation of paper money was such that he, having lost an ox, took the town's money in his hands, and bought a pair of oxen, for forty dollars, and before he was required to make his final settlement with the town treasurer, cider would sell for twelve dollars a mug, — three and one-third mugs of cider would pay, did pay, for the oxen.

I recollect hearing the late Samuel Chapin say that rye sold for $700 a bushel.

W. p. 132.

SHAYS' REBELLION.

It is *reported* that there were a few Wilbraham men in the mob of Shays. There were *many* of our men with Gen. Shepard. Nine Chaffees are said to have answered to the roll-call of Shepard's army, on the morning of the battle. As their names were called in succession, it caused no little amusement. "Asa Chaffee, Asa Chaffee, Jr., Comfort Chaffee, Comfort Chaffee, Jr.," etc.

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NAMES OF MEN IN THE WAR OF 1812, *FOR SEVEN MONTHS.*

Ralph Bennett.	Eleazar Hitchcock.	Phineas Burr.
Stephen Cadwell.	Robert Sessions.	Solomon Jones.
Joel M. Lyman.		

Y. p. 138.

SOLDIERS IN THE PRESENT WAR. Page 135.

WILBRAHAM, Oct. 20, 1863.

TO REV. R. P. STEBBINS, D. D.

DEAR SIR: Your note of yesterday came to hand this morning, and I hasten to say, in answer to your inquiry, that this town has sent of volunteers to the war of three years and nine months' men, 142 men, as follows: —

10th Regiment	14
From No. 13 to 26th Regiment	7
27th Regiment	30
31st "	10
34th "	1
37th "	31
Other regiments to 45th, and in the Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York Regiments . .	19
The nine months' men, 46th Regiment . .	28
	140

There have been some enlistments in the late regiments "Heavy Artillery" and "Veteran Service," the number of which I cannot give, but probably from 12 to 15. The draft called out fifty-six men.

Exempted	31
Paid Commutation	12
Gone to Service	2
Had enlisted previous to the Draft	2

The case of seven has not been reported in a way that I have been able to get the facts at present. No three months' men went that I am now aware of. Of the number of volunteers two were wounded; one died from the effects, and one recovered. Four have died of disease in the camps; one, 2d Lieut. C. W. Goodale, student of the academy, in the 27th Regiment. No casualties have happened to our men beyond what I have stated, that I know of. Some of the regiments have been in severe service. The 10th, for instance, at Fair Oaks, Malvern Hill, etc.; the 27th at Newbern and vicinity. But they seem to be strong men, mostly, and some of them are of the best class of soldiers.

Respectfully yours,

J. M. MERRICK.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTH WILBRAHAM, MASS.

BY REV. NATHANIEL FELLOWS.

The data for the early history of the Methodist Episcopal Church of North Wilbraham are very meagre; and the statements given below may not in all respects be exactly accurate, as they have been necessarily drawn from tradition rather than documentary sources.

In 1791, the Methodist preachers on Hartford circuit visited the South Parish once in two weeks and held meetings in the school-house. Sometime during this year, Charles Brewer heard one of them, Menzies Raynor, preach. He was deeply interested, and invited him to visit the North Parish and preach there. He consented to do so the next time he came round the circuit, on condition that Mr. Brewer and others would protect him and his colleague, Lemuel Smith, in case any violence should be offered them.

Two weeks later, Lemuel Smith preached the first Methodist sermon in the North Parish. The house of Charles Brewer became the home of the itinerant preachers, and the place of worship for the Methodists. For two years, there was preaching at his house once in two weeks.

Charles Brewer, Abel Bliss, Silas Bliss, and Mrs. Solomon Warriner were among those who first joined the Methodist class. Abel Bliss, Jr., joined soon, if not at first, and continued an active and influential member till his decease. In the year 1793, the first meeting-house was raised and covered, but not finished till many years afterwards. During these years, it was only furnished with rough slab seats.

In Bishop Asbury's Journal, under the date of Sunday, Aug. 17th, 1794, there is the following entry: "I came to the new chapel at Wilbraham, forty by thirty-

four feet, neatly designed. I was unwell, and under heaviness of mind; I preached to about four hundred people, who were very attentive, but appeared to be very little moved. The "standing order" have moved their house into the street not far from ours, and they think and say they can make the Methodist people pay them; but I presume in this they are mistaken."

On the 4th of September, 1794, the New England Conference, consisting then of about a dozen members, convened in the new chapel. The conference, though small, had mighty men in its ranks. Jesse Lee, Geo. Roberts, Wilson Lee, Daniel Ostrander, Geo. Pickering, Enoch Mudge, Joshua Taylor, and Joshua Hall were there; men whose influence on the churches of New England can never be effaced, and ought never to be forgotten. Francis Asbury presided. Saturday was the great day of the feast. The three principal men of the occasion, Asbury, Roberts, and Jesse Lee, preached with power to the multitude that thronged to hear them.

The New England Conference again held its session in this church, in the year 1797.

We can learn nothing farther of special interest in the history of this church till 1814, when a camp-meeting was held in this parish. The following year another was held. These meetings were a great blessing to the church. Its members were quickened in spiritual life, a large accession made to its numbers, and the attention of the community aroused and called to the subject of religion. Inspirited by this influence, they immediately raised money enough, not only to finish the church in comfortable style, but had about three hundred dollars remaining in the treasury. At this time, a stove was procured for warming the house. This was a great innovation on the customs of the age; and not till a number of years afterwards did any other church in town follow this example.

The first corporate meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Society was organized under a warrant issued by Wm. Knight, Esq., of Wilbraham, at the petition of Abraham Avery and ten others, and was held in the Methodist meeting-house, Aug. 29th, 1832.

In September, 1833, A. Avery circulated a subscription paper among the members of the society, for the purpose of taking stock in shares of fifty dollars each, to build a new meeting-house. Thirty-three shares having been taken, it was agreed to proceed to build a house forty-two by sixty feet, with a tower. The society voted to purchase slips to the amount of its funds, some three hundred dollars. William Farnham was the builder, after a plan furnished by Rev. John Lindsey, of Boston. The cost of the house was limited to three thousand dollars, except for the steps, bell, and some outside expenses. And the house cost within the limit. It was, by the contract, to have been finished by the 20th of October, 1834; but was not completed till May, of the following year. It was dedicated by the Rev. Dr. Fisk, about the 19th of May, 1835, and remains a comfortable place of worship to the present day. In May, 1850, an organ, costing four hundred dollars, was put into the church at the expense of three individuals.

This church has a membership, at the present time, of one hundred and fifty-seven, thirty-three of whom are students connected with the academy.

Till the year 1823 this church formed a part of the old *Tolland Circuit;* since that time it has usually been a station by itself. While it was a part of the circuit,

or since it became a station, the following persons have been appointed to preach in its pulpit, and in the order and at the time given below: —

1791, Menzies Raynor; 1791 and 4, Lemuel Smith; 1792, Hope Hull, F. Aldridge; 1793 and 4, George Pickering; 1793, Joshua Hall; 1795, Nicholas Snethen, Christopher Spry; 1796, Even Rogers, Thomas Coope; 1797 and 8, Lawrence McCombs; 1799, Daniel Ostrander; 1800, Abner Wood; 1801, Henry Eames; 1801 and 3, Augustus Jocelyn; 1802 and 3, Elijah Batchelor; 1802, Alexander McLane; 1804, John Gove; 1805, Noble W. Thomas; 1806, Benjamin Hill, John Tinkham, Theophilus Smith; 1807, Hollis Sampson, G. R. Norris; 1808, B. F. Lombard; 1809, B. P. Hill, William Hinman; 1810, Joel Steel, Samuel Cutler; 1811, Philip Munger, Robert Arnold; 1812, Elias Marble, Thomas Tucker; 1813 and 31, Edward Hyde; 1813 and 17, Benjamin Sabin; 1814, Joel Winch, Job Pratt; 1815, William Marsh, Orin Roberts; 1816 and 17, Salmon Winchester, Nathan Paine; 1818 and 19, Leonard Bennett; 1818, Hezekiah Davis; 1819, Francis Dane; 1820 and 21, Ebenezer Blake; 1821, Daniel Dorchester; 1822, Joel W. M'Kee, Allen Barnes; 1823, 4 and 8, Phineas Peck; 1825 and 6, Isaac Jennison; 1827, Dr. Wilbur Fisk; 1828, J. Foster; 1829, A. Waitt; 1830, Samuel Davis; 1832, T. W. Tucker; 1833, N. B. Spaulding; 1834 and 5, Reuben Ransom; 1836, James Porter; 1837, '38 and 9, William Givesey; 1840, Shipley W. Wilson; 1841 and 2, Charles Adams; 1843 and 4, Nelson E. Cobleigh; 1845, F. Nutting; 1846 and 7, H. V. Degen; 1848, Charles Baker; 1849 and 50, Z. H. Mudge; 1851 and 2, Stephen Cushing; 1853 and 4, Gilbert Haven; 1855 and 6, Chester Field; 1857, H. P. Andrews; 1858 and 9, W. F. Warren; 1860, Lorenzo White; 1861, George Prentice; 1862 and 3, Nathaniel Fellows.

PETITION FOR METHODIST SOCIETY IN WILBRAHAM.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

To the Hon^bl Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled in Boston, on the fourteenth Day of January, in the year of our Lord Seventeen hundred and ninety-five.

Humbly Show the inhabitants of the Town of Wilbraham, in the County of Hampshire, that, Your Petitioners are of the Denomination of Christians called Methodists, and are conscientiously of the persuasion; and are of Sufficient number and Ability to support a Teacher, and defray the Expenses of upholding public Worship among themselves; they therefore pray that they may be admitted to the Rights and Benefits of the Constitution in this Respect; that they, and such others as may hereafter join them, in such manner as shall be prescribed by Law, may be incorporated into a Parish, by the Name of the *Methodist Parish in Wilbraham*, and be invested with the Powers, Privileges, and Rights which by the Law and Constitution of this Commonwealth, Parishes ought to have and enjoy.

And as in Duty bound shall pray.

Lemuel Smith, *Elder* in the Methodist Church.	Robert Coffin.
Abel Bliss.	Justice Stebbins.
Charles Brewer.	Asa Jones.
Silas Bliss.	Ezra Barker, Jr.
Ephraim Fuller.	Matthew Grover.
Gaius Brewer.	Aaron Frost.
John Russell.	Frederick Stebbins.
Augustus Sisson.	Abner S. Brewer.
Phineas Stebbins.	Joseph Abbot.
Moses K. Bartlet.	Anson Brewer.
	Cæsar Tyler.

Ethan Warriner.	Abner Chapin.
Solomon Warriner, Jr.	William *Sweetser?* Brewer.
Elijah Stebbins.	Elisha Walden.
Cyrus Stebbins.	John Loud.
Walter Stebbins.	Thomas Howard.
James Hammond.	Timothy Stebbins.
Abel Bliss, Jr.	

This Petition was referred to the Committee on Parishes, which reported January 31, 1795, the usual order, notifying "the several parishes" in town, "that they appear and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said Petition should not be granted," at the first session of the next General Court, to be holden in May and June following.

The South Parish made answer, June 12, 1795, by "John Bliss and Phinehas Stebbins, that the parish have made no objections against the prayer of the petition being granted."

The North Parish, by their Committee, James Shaw, Reuben Sikes, and Chileab B. Merrick, made an elaborate reply to the petition. They represent, that on the division of the town into two parishes, the meeting-house was one mile south of the centre of the parish, and that they could not persuade the owner to sell the central lot on which all were agreed; that while they were waiting, the roof of the meeting-house became so leaky as to render its use and preservation impossible, and that they permitted it to be new shingled at expense of individuals; that this "exasperated the leading and principal part of your petitioners to a great degree; they accordingly assembled and entered into a solemn written agreement to separate from the parish, be no longer connected with them, and formed themselves into a distinct society, as they termed it; the next Sabbath they went in a body, headed by one of the principal Baptists in the parish, to the Baptist meeting; they fell off gradually, and at length all left that meeting; at this time not one of them had ever heard a Methodist preacher; but the preachers of that order, ever willing to fish in muddy water, came among them; they swallowed the bait, and are now as they say conscientious Methodists;" that soon after, a number of the principal inhabitants of said parish "met and invited the petitioners to attend and give their reasons for their conduct; that they came and said, that if we would dismiss our Minister (who by this time they had taken a dislike to), and remove the Meeting-house they would give up all thoughts of a separation; but a contract had been made with the minister and could not be annulled without his consent; yet they would remove the meeting-house just as soon as possible, "using all exertion within the bounds of reason." More than a year ago the selected spot was

obtained, a meeting-house has been built just where they wanted it, the minister has been dismissed at his request, mostly, as he said, on "account of these people;" "yet they are as far from being satisfied as ever." The respondents also say that more than six of the petitioners are minors; Cesar, the negro, is a transient person, already out of the State; Lemuel Smith, who in the petition styles himself their elder, is not here but once a month, nor that much of the time; and will not stay long probably; Grover has left the State; two others wish they had not signed the petition; so that there are only twenty-five of any weight. Their ability may be known by the portion they pay of the town tax: that tax is £136 1s. 2d.; they pay £14 4s. 5d." They forbear to draw any inferences and leave the whole subject to the General Court.

To this, the petitioners reply, June 6, 1795, by their Committee, Gaius Brewer, John Russel, and Ephraim Fuller, in substance as follows: "That shingling the meeting-house is but one cause; they were forever opposed to the settlement of their minister, and threw in their objections before his ordination, yet he was settled in spite of the remonstrance of twenty-seven persons; they never consented to return but utterly refused to do so on any condition; Nor did their minister ask a dismission on our account, but because his health was so poor that he could not continue; nor is Lemuel Smith absent from us as they say, — his family is here, and when he is removed another minister will come. There are but five minor petitioners, and they are 'capable of choosing and practising the truth.' No one wishes his name taken off. As nearly all of us are of the North Parish, it is not just to estimate our ability by the town tax; the Parish tax for building the Meeting-House is £343, and we pay £90. We are not fickle, nor do our ministers "fish in muddy water."

The Parish voted, February 14, 1794, that all who belonged to the Methodists should be exempt from taxes, but afterwards changed, and rated the Methodists to build their meeting-house, when they had their own to build and a minister to support. They submit their case, —

"Not doubting but your Honors feel the spirit of republicanism, that liberty, civil and religious, might be established within the American shores."

PETITION OF NOAH STEBBINS AND OTHERS FOR INCORPORATION "INTO A PARISH OR RELIGIOUS SOCIETY, BY THE NAME OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL PARISH, IN THE TOWNS OF WILBRAHAM, SPRINGFIELD, AND LUDLOW."

To the Honorable the Senate, & the Honorable the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled, in Boston, on the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and five: —

The Petition of the subscribers most humbly exhibits that they are of a persuasion and denomination of Christians commonly called Methodists, belonging to the towns of Wilbraham, Springfield, & Ludlow, in the County of Hampshire; and that they are of sufficient number & ability to support a teacher and defray the expenses of upholding publick worship among themselves.

They therefore pray that they may be admitted to the rights and benefits of the Constitution in this respect, that they, and such others as may hereafter join them in such manner as shall be prescribed by law, may be incorporated into a parish or religious society by the name of the Methodist Episcopal Parish or Religious Society in the towns of Wilbraham, Springfield, & Ludlow, and be invested with the powers, privileges, & rights, which by the law & Constitution of this Commonwealth parishes ought to have and enjoy.

And as in duty shall pray

Newel Cone,	Ahimaaz Willey,	Jona. Merrick, Jr.,
Matthew Cone,	Charles Converse,	Zenas Parker,
Ichabod Cone,	Moses B. Bartlet,	Luther Stebbins, 2d,
John Langdon,	Charles Johnson,	Noah Stebbins, Jr.,
Calvin Stebbins, 2d,	Russel Parker,	Stephen Stebbins,
Josiah Langdon,	Walter Langdon,	Sylvanus Stebbins,
Noah Stebbins,	Eldad Stebbins,	Luther Stebbins,
Charles Brewer,	Christopher Langdon,	Eldad Stebbins, Jr.,
Abel Bliss, Jr.	Walter Stebbins,	Zadock Stebbins,
Rowland Crocker,	Reuben Hendrick,	William Brewer, Jr.,
John Kneeland,	Abner Chapin,	James Calkins,
Leonard Frost,	Jonah Beebe,	David Cadwell,
Ezra Barker,	Benjamin Weaver,	Nathan Mack,
Samuel Brewer,	Sewall T. Mack,	Ezra Goss,
Gaius Brewer,	Elijah Jones,	Phineas Stebbins, Jr.,
Gordon Chapel,	David Calkins,	Elisha Shepard,
John Brewer,	Fred. Stebbins,	Nathan Alvard,
Peter Wallridge,	Noah Frost,	Steph. Cadwell, Jr.,
James Calkins, Jr.,	Abel Bliss,	Benjamin Allen,
Eleazer Bishop,	Charles Brewer, Jr.,	Jonas Keyes.
Joseph Bannister,		61.

Committed to the Standing Committee on Parishes, May 30, 1805, by the House of Representatives.

In the same words another petition is presented at the same time, signed as follows : —

James Malvin,	Samuel Harris,	Elias Frost,
Samuel Frost,	Ephraim Fuller, Jr.,	Elkanah Tenney,
Eliphalet Green,	Samuel Frost, Jr.,	Lemuel Parsons,
Jonathan Benton,	David Orcutt,	John Paulls, Jr.,
Stephen Pease,	Silas Holton,	John Charter,
Jedediah Sawyer,	Joseph Webster,	William Carlile,
Uriah Clough,	John Clough,	David Slaster,
Elijah Thacher,	Anthony Slaster,	David Stebbins,
Uriah Clough,	Stephen Howard,	Gideon Hunn,
Daniel Swetland,	Ephraim Fuller,	Chester Wakefield,
William Butler,	Reuben Frost,	Anson Craw
John Russel,		24.

Wilbraham, 59; Springfield, 25; Ludlow, 8.

On the "Petition of Noah Stebbins and others and Stephen Howard and others, Inhabitants of Wilbraham, Springfield, and Ludlow, praying that they may be incorporated into a religious Society, by the name of the Methodist Episcopal Parish or Religious Society in the towns of Wilbraham, Springfield, and Ludlow," it is

Ordered, that the Petitioners cause attested copies of their Petitions, with this order thereon, to be served on the respective Town Clerks of the said towns of Wilbraham, Springfield, and Ludlow, and on the several Parish Clerks within the said towns, thirty days at least before the second Wednesday of the first session of the next General Court, that all concerned may then appear, and shew cause (if any they have) why the prayer of said Petitioners should not be granted.

In Senate, February 22, 1806.

Read and accepted.

Sent down for concurrence,

H. G. OTIS, *President.*

In the House of Representatives, February 24, 1806.

Read and concurred,

TIMOTHY BIGELOW, *Speaker.*

A previous petition of Noah Stebbins and others only is ordered and referred in the same way, June 11th, 1805 (except "third instead of second Wednesday," and "next session" instead of "first session of next," &c.)

The next autumn, forty-three of these petitioners renewed their petition, "notwithstanding there may be objections by Towns or Parishes."

The North and South Parishes answered the notification of the petition in nearly the same words, as follows (omitting the formal introduction) : —

"The clerk of the town has favored us with a writing purporting to be an order of your Honors on the petition of Noah Stebbins and others, praying to be incorporated into a religious society, also papers purporting to be Petitions of said Noah Stebbins, Stephen Howard and others, but neither of said papers are attested by any person as coppies, so that we are wholly at a loss whether there be any such petitions pending, and we know not the names of the petitioners except the two above mentioned. Indeed, the person who left the papers with the clerk said he would give the names of as many as he could remember, and gave about fifty. He soon after called and took said list away, so that we have not the names of the Petitioners but by the memory of the clerk, and his information was incomplet; but a number have appeared and said that they signed said petition, but that they were deceived — that they had no idea of saying that they were Methodists, and wished to be incorporated, but that they were willing that others, to wit, Methodists, might be. Upon the whole, we think there has been great unfairness in obtaining said Petitions, and in giving notice. We therefore pray, if there is such a petition pending, your Honors would not grant the prayer thereof until we are regularly notified and have the names of the petitioners.

"As in duty bound shall we pray."

CHILEAB B. MERRICK,
SAMUEL F. MERRICK,
PHILIP MORGAN,
Committee for North Parish.

ROBERT SESSIONS,
STEWART BEEBE,
CALVIN STEBBINS,
Committee for South Parish of Wilbraham.

In 1819, forty-two inhabitants of Wilbraham, Palmer, and Monson, petitioned to be incorporated as "The Third Religious Society in the town of Wilbraham," alleging that they were situated about four miles from the nearest place of public worship, and that they had twenty years since formed themselves into a separate religious society, and erected a house of worship, and supported preaching almost constantly since that time; but at length, finding it inconvenient to do so, in consequence of the want of an act of incorporation, granting to said society power to lay and collect a tax for that purpose.

The act of incorporation was not passed, and it is hardly necessary to copy the names of the petitioners. They were, I suppose, the supporters of the Baptist Society in the North Village.

Z. p. 142.

THE PRESBYTERIAN SADDLE.

The collectors found it very difficult at times to get the taxes of the heretics in town; and no little cunning, as well as spunk, was sometimes

displayed in escaping payment. Abraham Avery was a prominent man in the town, a tanner and saddle and harness-maker; a man of great energy, indomitable persistency, pious and plucky to admiration; from hair to heel a Methodist. He was cunning withal, and liked a practical joke, so be it was worthy of his religious profession. He owed a tax. He wouldn't pay it. The collector of the parish determined to have it. "Get it then," said Avery. Now Avery could make a good saddle, — one that the Queen's horse-guards would be proud of in finish, and whose strength would have carried any one of the six hundred through the immortal charge of Inkermann. So, in his meditations, Avery determined to make a saddle to pay his tax withal. He selected the pieces of leather which best pleased the eye, and fitted them together as he well knew how, being a skilful worker in leather, and mounted it with shining metal, so that it was very tempting to look upon, like the forbidden fruit of Eden. Avery knew that the strength was not equal to the beauty thereof; but as it was not for *sound* doctrine he made it, so he delighted in correspondency. The collector came; the shop had been cleared of most of the finished work besides, and when he cast his eye upon the saddle, he did covet it much for his taxes, and was much delighted when Avery declined to pay them. "I must take this nice saddle, then," said the publican. "Take it then," quoth Avery, gruffly. It was taken. Avery's face was sparkling all over with delight as the constable put the prize in his wagon and drove off. It was sold at auction and brought a great price, far above the amount of the tax; for it was known that Avery's saddles were of the best. The constable offered the excess of the sale over the tax to Avery, but he would not take it. The constable tendered to him the balance in gold; Avery said he would have nothing to do with it. The saddle was purchased by a man from Belchertown. He was tempted to try it early. It looked magnificently on his horse's back. He sprang upon it. Out came one stirrup! down broke the seat! out came the bridge! off dropped the sides! and he spake words of Avery and the saddle which were not lawful to be spoken, and should not be written. He came to Avery in great wrath, and asked him if he did not warrant his saddles. "Certainly," said Avery. "Well, then," he replied, "look at this saddle." "Ah," said Avery, "that is the 'Presbyterian saddle,' I have nothing to do with that." And, with a relish of satisfaction, he again drew his strong waxed-end through the leather upon which he was at work, for he enjoyed hugely what had come to pass.

A A. p. 149.

PREAMBLE TO THE VOTE INVITING MR. CALVIN COLTON, OF LONGMEADOW, TO BECOME PASTOR. Page 142.

"Whereas the controversies between Arminians, Calvinists, Unitarians, and Trinitarians have been productive of great evil in the world, and unless speedily prevented, are like to produce the same with us, and we know of no so feasible method to prevent it as for our public teachers, when speaking upon the points which distinguish those sects, to confine themselves to the language of Inspiration or not to speak upon them at all; Whereas, Mr. Calvin Colton, of Longmeadow, whilst he has been with us, has in a good measure conformed himself to that rule, and hoping that he will increase more and more in that and all other divine graces which directly tend to the harmony of the church, and the prosperity of Zion, Voted," &c.

Words of golden wisdom, of which the world is not even yet worthy.

MINISTERS IN THE NORTH PARISH AFTER REV. MR. BROWN. Page 143.

John Hyde,	Installed April 22, 1828;		Dismissed October 20, 1831.	
Israel G. Rose,	"	April 18, 1832;	"	January 21, 1835.
John Bowers,	"	Dec. 13, 1837;	"	May 11, 1856.
John P. Skeele,	"	Nov. 30, 1858.		

SETTLEMENT OF REV. MOSES WARREN. Page 145.

At a legal meeting of the South Parish, April 18, 1773, Voted, to give Mr. Moses Warren, a call to settle, 55 to 7.

Voted, to give one hundred and fifty pounds as settlement,—one hundred to be paid in one year, and fifty within two years from time of settlement, 45 to 10.

Voted, as Salary Seventy Pounds yearly, 46 to 11, and to find twenty-four cords of wood, 48 to 7.

[I do not understand this vote giving £70 salary, for there are but £58 14s. ever raised for it.]

At a church meeting June 16, 1788, Voted to give Mr. Warren a call to settle, 22 to 1.

At a legal Parish meeting July 14, 1788, Voted to alter the vote of April 18th, respecting Mr. Warren's salary, so that one-half of it shall be paid in Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn, Oats, Wool, or Flax, at the current Market price.

MR. WARREN'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

"*To the Church and Society in the South Parish of Wilbraham.*

"BRETHREN AND FRIENDS:—

"I have taken into serious consideration the Invitation which you gave me to settle with you in the work of the gospel Ministry. The proceedings of your meetings have been laid before me by your committee.

"And, looking up to Heaven for direction, I have endeavored impartially to at-

tend to the arguments for and against my settling; have considered your circumstances, as to Union; have attended to the proposals you made for my temporal support; and to the prospect of my being useful among you:

"Giving all the arguments their just weight, I think at present they preponderate in favor of my settling, And, therefore, following, as far as I know my own heart, the dictates of Providence and duty, I would present you with my answer in the affirmative.

"Should nothing turn up altering the present appearance of things, I am now willing to proceed with you to the necessary steps for Ordination. Brethren, you must be sensible that the work to which you invite me is great and arduous, you will allow me, then, earnestly to solicit an interest in your prayers to the great Head of the Church, that should Providence fix me here as your watchman, I may have grace to be faithful, and wisdom to be successful. Should such a connexion take place, may it serve to promote our Mutual happiness here & hereafter, & the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. All which, with suitable respects, is the sincere desire & prayer of him who devotes himself to your service in Christ.

"MOSES WARREN.

"WILBRAHAM, SOUTH PARISH, July 17, 1778."

At a church meeting held July 21, it was voted that the following churches, by their Pastors and Delegates, be requested to sit in council . . . on Tuesday, the second day of September next, at one o'clock in the afternoon, to assist in the ordination of Mr. Moses Warren.

Rev. Elisha Fish, Upton.	Rev. Walter King, Norwich.
" Elisha Fish, Jr., Windsor.	" David Sanford, Medway.
" Charles Backus, Somers.	" —— Alexander, Mendon.
" Richard S. Storrs, Longmeadow.	" Samuel Stebbins, Simsbury.
" Joseph Willard, North Parish.	" Jos. Lathrop, W. Springfield.
" Bazaleel Howard, Springfield.	" —— Prudens, Enfield.
" Jesse Ives, Monson.	" John Willard, Stafford.

There is no record of the ordination services, — at least I have found none.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE. Page 147.

One of the foolish instances of church discipline I will give for instruction and warning. Mr. John Williams was proposed for church membership, March 7, 1792. Difficulties were so far removed that he was admitted on the 14th. April 4, 1794, Brother John Williams made confession for speaking unadvisedly "By George." "He had been accused publickly of profaning the name of God which he denied he did." The church came to no vote respecting the confession but chose a committee of *five* "to inquire, obtain light, and report to the chh." On the 13th the church was notified to meet on the 17th. The chh. met and chose two men to bring forward a complaint, which they did, and one man to support the complaint, and voted to send the accusation to Brother Williams; then adjourned to April 28th. Met as agreed. Bro. Williams denied the charge. The managers for the church called two women and one man to sustain it. The two

women, after solemn caution to be careful and tell the truth, said that Brother Williams did say "By God." The man was not so confident, "*but rather thought he did.*" Brother Williams chose Col. Bliss to manage his case. Two witnesses were called, both men. After being solemnly cautioned, one said he didn't hear only "By"; the other *positively knew* he said "By George"!! After remarks on the evidence by both parties, the church voted that the complaint was supported, and suspended Brother Williams from communion till he should make satisfaction. Brother Williams asked for a mutual council. Church not ready to grant it; but adjourned to Friday previous to first Sabbath in June. Met; voted to unite with Br. Williams in calling a mutual council, and to call in the assistance of the churches in Somers, Longmeadow, and Springfield, to meet July 1st, and chose three men to lay the case before the council. Council met, organized, reviewed the case, and adjourned to the next day. Met; stated that they "did not think the charge supported in manner and form as alleged," but admonished Mr. Williams to take special heed to his ways, and especially to his tongue; (!) and the church were rebuked for not complying with Matt. xviii; then said that the church should consider Br. Williams' acceptance of their verdict ground of restoration. When asked if he accepted, he said "Yes." The church wished for time before answering; but at last yielded, and voted Br. Williams back. We are not through. Three men had a church meeting called, July 27, to see if the church would not *reconsider* their vote. They met. They reconsidered. They offered Br. Williams another mutual council; then dissolved. In September, Br. Williams petitioned for a committee to lay his case before the association. The church would not unite in the choice of a committee; but offered a mutual council, which Br. Williams declined in turn. Then the church chose a committee of three to confer with Br. Williams, and see if some method could not be adopted to heal the unhappy breach, and adjourned to Friday. Met; prayed; committee reported, "could effect nothing." Then could not agree to send to the association. The trouble bubbles faster. Dea. Hitchcock asks to be dismissed from the deaconship, because John Bliss had not represented him fairly before the ecclesiastical council. He was "much grieved." "Much was said about the matter," but the church could neither censure Bliss nor release the deacon then, and adjourned to the 24th. Church met; prayed. Deacon Hitchcock persisted in resigning; church voted he should not; he *did*. Col. Bliss was not dealt with; wholly dropt. In October, 1795, Dea. Hitchcock asked a certificate of dismission from the church; got it. Where is brother Williams? Not a ray of light is thrown upon his destiny. He is left suspended between the church and the world, in perilous proximity to the latter. Let who will choose the old paths!

Rev. Moses Warren was born in Upton, 1758; graduated at Harvard College, 1784; studied theology with Rev. Mr. Fish, of Upton; was licensed at Milford, 1785; was ordained, September 3, 1788; married Lydia Bliss, 1789, (?) and died, Feb. 29, 1829, aged 71.

MINISTERS IN THE SOUTH PARISH AFTER REV. MR. WRIGHT.
Page 150.

James A. Hazen, ordained Jan. 30, 1839, discharged June 22, 1847.
Hubbard Beebe, installed April 19, 1848, discharged April 1, 1852.



WESLEYAN ACADEMY, WILBRAHAM, MASS. FOUNDED 1824.

E. Skinner, ordained May 19, 1853, discharged April 11, 1855.
James C. Houghton, installed April 11, 1855, discharged October 1, 1856.
John Whitehill, ordained December 11, 1861.

BB. p. 161.

HISTORY OF THE WESLEYAN ACADEMY. Page 157.

BY DR. RAYMOND.

The Wesleyan Academy, as its name indicates, is in some way connected with the Methodist Church. A recognition of this connection is essential to a correct knowledge of its history. It is not now, at this Centennial Celebration of the Incorporation of the Town of Wilbraham, quite one hundred years since the first Methodist Church in America was organized. During the first fifty years of this period the activities of the church were mostly employed in pioneer labor, — in the missionary work of establishing churches, — but few efforts were made to found educational institutions. Cokesbury College, in Maryland, was built, and, after having been consumed by fire, was rebuilt; but Providence permitting it to be again destroyed by the flames, nothing further, worthy of record, was done in the cause of education by the Methodist Church in America till the year 1818. At that time the New England Conference embraced within its limits the entire territory of the New England States, except a small portion included in the New York Conference. Under the patronage of the New England Conference, and chiefly by the agency of its ministers, the Wesleyan Academy was inaugurated, and was located for a time in Newmarket, New Hampshire. Its act of incorporation passed the New Hampshire Legislature, June 23d, 1818. The acceptance of its charter, adoption of its by-laws and the first organized meeting of its Board of Trustees occurred July 10th of the same year. The close connection between the Academy and the Conference is sufficiently evinced by the following quotation: —

"*By-laws of the Trustees of the Newmarket Wesleyan Academy, adopted at their first meeting, and sanctioned by the New England Annual Conference.*— ART. 1. These by-laws, rules, and regulations, and such others as may hereafter be made and receive the sanction of the New England Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the time being, shall be binding and obligatory on the Trustees and officers of the Academy, and shall not be annulled, suspended, or altered at any time, without the consent of said Conference, certified in writing by their president, and countersigned by their secretary."

The same connection is equally manifest in many subsequent acts and resolves. The course of study prescribed, included, besides the usual academic studies, the "Hebrew, Chaldee, and Syriac languages, and divinity," showing that the preparation of candidates for the ministry was one of the objects contemplated by the founders of the institution. A by-law providing that any surplus funds in the hands of the treasurer at any time should be appropriated to the education of sons of Methodist travelling preachers, the New England Conference having the perogative of selecting candidates, shows another purpose of the founders.

The Wesleyan Academy had but very limited success during the entire time of its location at Newmarket, and on the 30th of December, 1823, the following vote was passed by the trustees: —

"Whereas, the Academy under our superintendence has not met with that encouragement which we were induced to expect, Therefore, voted, that we suspend our operations for the present."

Subsequently, by vote of the board, their effects were transferred to the trustees of the Wesleyan Academy at Wilbraham, Mass., and the corporation of the *Newmarket* Wesleyan Academy became extinct.

Previous to the suspension of operations in the Newmarket Academy, its founders, with other friends of education in the Methodist Church, who had become associated with them, were inquiring for a more favorable location, and proposals from different localities were invited. The citizens of Wilbraham offered valuable inducements, and the present site of the institution was selected, a board of trustees was nominated, and an act of incorporation was obtained from the Massachusetts Legislature, which act was approved by the Governor on the 7th of February, 1824, a few days more than a month after operations were suspended at Newmarket.

The Wesleyan Academy at Wilbraham and the Newmarket Wesleyan Academy are one and the same institution, with a change of location and legal authority; under the patronage of the same ecclesiastical organization, founded by the same men, sustained by the same agencies, organized for the same purposes, and one every way identical (with the exceptions just mentioned). The Wesleyan Academy, therefore, claims the honor of being the oldest existing literary institution, under the patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in America. The Maine Wesleyan Seminary at Readfield, Maine, and the Oneida Conference Seminary at Cazenovia, New York, were both commenced about the time of the removal from Newmarket to Wilbraham, and the latter commenced the work of instruction a short time before the opening of the school at Wilbraham. These few and then feeble forerunners among Methodist literary institutions have been followed by a very numerous train. In 1860, the northern division of the Methodist Episcopal Church had under its care one hundred and three institutions of academic or higher grade, with six hundred and thirty-three professors and teachers, 21,616 pupils, and a property estimated to be worth, above indebtedness, $4,085,465. So that, from the time the Wesleyan Academy,— then the only Methodist institution of learning on the continent, — was removed to Wilbraham, to the year 1860, when the above statistics were collected, the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the non-slaveholding States, did, on an average, every four months establish an educational institution of academic or higher grade, with, on an average, two hundred students, six teachers, and a property of $40,000. The connection of the Wesleyan Academy with a church whose zeal in the cause of education is such as these statistics evince, explains, at least in part, the secret of its success. On land donated by the late Wm. Rice, Esq., of Springfield, formerly of Wilbraham, known as the "Academy Lot," with the avails of donations collected by agents who travelled extensively through the Conference, the "Old Academy" building was erected. A farm of sixty acres, — one-half of the Warriner homestead,— was purchased, and the old farm-house was enlarged and fitted for a boarding-house. The school was opened for the reception of students, November 8th,

1825. The number of students the first day was eight; during the term, thirty-five. From these small beginnings the institution was at once encouraged by unexpected success, and through its entire subsequent history it has received a patronage quite equal to its provisions. The principal's house was built in 1827. To assist indigent students, by making the institution, as far as means would allow, a manual-labor school, a mechanic shop was erected, and incipient arrangements were made for an agricultural department. This mechanic shop was soon after enlarged and converted into a laboratory, with recitation rooms, museum, and cabinet for the department of Natural Science. In 1838, a separate boarding-house for ladies was erected on the northwest corner of the academy lot. This was subsequently removed and made to form a south wing to the old boarding-house. A new dining-hall was added, and the whole thoroughly renewed, making a very convenient residence for a family of one hundred and fifty persons.

In 1851, the seminary building known as "Fisk Hall," was erected; and in 1854, the old laboratory was removed and "Binney Hall" erected in its place. In 1856 the principal's house was removed and another built to supply its place. On the 4th of January of this year, the boarding-house took fire, and, with a large portion of its furniture and provisions, was entirely consumed. On the 1st of August the erection of a new and substantial brick edifice, two hundred and forty-two feet by thirty-eight, with a rear part one hundred and forty feet by thirty-eight, partly four and partly three stories high, was commenced. This structure was completed in 1857, and on the 29th of September, a few weeks after its occupancy by students it was destroyed by the flames. After nearly two years' delay, another building to occupy its place was commenced, and was ready for the reception of students at the commencement of the fall term, in August, 1861. This noble edifice provides ample accommodations for a family of two hundred and fifty persons, and it is regarded as a superior structure, unsurpassed by any of its kind in architectural taste, convenience, and general adaptation to the purpose for which it is used. During these years the trustees bought real estate, and occasionally sold small portions of what they had purchased; but an account of these purchases and sales is not considered essential to the purposes of this brief historic sketch. In 1827, the New England Conference made the academy a donation of the proprietorship of the Zion's Herald, a weekly periodical of the denomination, published in Boston. This was subsequently sold to the book agents at New York, and the avails applied to the general purposes of the academy.

The assets of the concern, as reported by the committee on inventory, March 19th, 1863, amount to	$120,000
The value of property destroyed by fire is	65,000
Total of property entrusted to the care of the Trustees . .	$185,000

The resources from which this amount of property has been accumulated are as follows: —

Donations from Isaac Rich, Esq., of Boston	$40,000
Appropriations from the State	36,500
Insurance	28,000
Present Indebtedness	20,000
Donations from Lee Claflin, Esq., of Hopkinton	10,500

Donations from the late Col. Binney, of Boston	10,000
Avails of profits and sale of *Zion's Herald*	3,400
Donations of 1,000 dollars and under, chiefly from friends in Boston, Lynn, Springfield, and Wilbraham	36,600
Total	$185,000

To determine definitely the whole number of different persons who have been students of the Wesleyan Academy would require an unwarrantable amount of labor. If we estimate the average attendance at 180, and the average time for the continuance of each pupil at six months, — which estimates are not far from the truth, — the whole number during the thirty-eight years of the school's history at Wilbraham will be about 12,000. Most of these 12,000 students, at the time of their connection with the Academy, were between fifteen and twenty-five years of age. Probably about 500 of them, on leaving the Academy, entered college, and a much larger number went immediately to professional studies. The chief glory of the institution, however, consists in the fact that it has educated in part so many thousands of the bone and sinew of society, — the practical men and women of the age. The catalogue for 1854–5 shows a list of 631 names, — 343 gentlemen, and 288 ladies; aggregate by terms, 943. This is the largest attendance during any one year. During the Fall Term of 1854 there were 343 students; the largest number ever in attendance at the same time. The average number of students during the last twelve years has not been far from 200.

The following is a list of the officers of the institution, with the time of commencing and of closing their services: —

PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

	Accessus.	*Exitus.*		*Accessus.*	*Exitus.*
Col. Amos Binney,	1824,	1830.	Rev. Phinehas Crandall,	1852,	1854.
Rev. John W. Hardy,	1830,	1836.	Rev. Amos Binney,	1854,	1856.
Hon. Abel Bliss,	1836,	1845.	Rev. Edw. Otheman, A.M.,	1856,	1861.
George M. Hyde, Esq.,	1845,	1848.	Amos B. Merrill, Esq.,	1861,	1863.
William Rice, Esq.,	1848,	1852.	Rev. Erastus O. Haven, D.D.,	1863,	

SECRETARIES.

	Accessus.	*Exitus.*		*Accessus.*	*Exitus.*
Hon. Abel Bliss,	1824,	1836.	Rev. Edw'd Otheman, A.M.,	1848,	1851.
John M. Merrick, Esq.,	1836,	1842.	Robert R. Wright, Esq.,	1851,	1853.
Rev. William Smith,	1842,	1843.	John M. Merrick, Esq.,	1853,	1858
Rev. Charles Adams, A.M.,	1843,	1845.	Harrison Newhall, Esq.,	1858,	1860.
Rev. Miner Raymond, D.D.,	1845,	1848.	Rev. Wm. Rice, A.M.,	1860,	

TREASURERS.

	Accessus.	*Exitus.*		*Accessus.*	*Exitus.*
Abraham Avery, Esq.,	1824,	1828.	John M. Merrick, Esq.,	1842,	1861.
Rev. Wilbur Fisk, D.D.,	1828,	1832.	James Luke, Esq.,	1861,	1862.
Rev. Joseph A. Merrill,	1832,	1842.	Rev. Miner Raymond, D.D ,	1862,	

TRUSTEES.

	Accessus.	*Exitus.*		*Accessus.*	*Exitus.*
Col. Amos Binney,	1824,	1830.	Rev. Timothy Merritt,	1825,	1837.
Hon. Abel Bliss,	1824,	1845.	Rev. Joseph A. Merrill,	1825,	1849.
Abraham Avery, Esq.,	1824,	1842.	Rev. John W. Hardy,	1826,	1845.
Rev. Calvin Brewer,	1824,		David Rice, Esq.,	1830,	1854.
Rev. Enoch Mudge,	1824,	1826.	John L. Smith, Esq.,	1831,	1836.
Rev. Wilbur Fisk, D.D.,	1824,	1839.	Hon. Gilbert Burrows,	1831,	1834.
Rev. Joshua Crowell,	1824,	1835.	Alpheus Hanks, Esq.,	1831,	1833.
William Rice, Esq.,	1824,	1863.	George M. Hyde, Esq.,	1833,	1849.
Rev. John Lindsey,	1824,	1841.	Rev. Heman Bangs,	1834.	1836.

	Accessus.	*Exitus.*
William L. Smith, Esq.,	1835,	1836.
John M. Merrick, Esq.,	1836.	
Joel M. Lyman,	1836,	1857.
Rev. Bartholemew Otheman,	1836,	1849.
Rev. William Smith,	1839,	1844.
Prof. Aug. W. Smith, LL.D.,	1840,	1860.
Rev. Miner Raymond, D.D.,	1842.	
Roderick S. Merrick,	1842,	1853.
Rev. Phineas Crandall,	1844.	
Rev. Charles Adams, D.D.,	1844,	1853.
Robert R. Wright,	1845.	
Rev. Amos Binney,	1845.	
James Luke,	1847,	1862.
Samuel Warner,	1848,	1858.
Lee Rice,	1848,	1857.
Rev. Edward Otheman, A.M.,	1848.	
Horatio N. Hovey,	1848,	1851.
Rev. D. P. Robinson, A. M.,	1849.	
William North, Esq.,	1849,	1859.
Lee Claflin, Esq.,	1850.	
Hon. Jacob Sleeper,	1850.	
Rev. Loranus Crowell, A.M.,	1851.	
Rev. Charles H. True, D.D.,	1851.	
Harvey Danks, Esq.,	1851,	1859.
David Smith,	1852.	
Pliny Nickerson,	1852.	
H. Bridgman Brewer,	1853.	
Rev. John W. Merrill, D.D.,	1853,	1859.
Isaac Rich, Esq.,	1854.	
Hon. Thomas P. Richardson,	1854.	
Harrison Newhall,	1854.	
John Wesley Bliss,	1857.	
Truman Kimpton,	1857,	1860.
Rev. William Rice, A.M.,	1858.	
Amos B. Merrill, Esq.,	1859.	
Horace M. Sessions,	1859.	
George C. Rand,	1860.	
Philip P. Tapley,	1860.	
Rev. Joseph Cummings, D.D.,	1860.	
Rev. E. O. Haven, D.D., LL.D.,	1861.	
Porter Cross,	1863.	
Francis J. Warner,	1863.	
Horace Smith,	1863.	
Lewis H. Taylor,	1863.	

OFFICERS OF INSTRUCTION AND GOVERNMENT.

PRINCIPALS.

	Accessus.	*Exitus.*
Rev. Wilbur Fisk, D.D.,	1825,	1831.
Rev. W. McK. Bangs, A.M.,	1831,	1832.
Rev. John Foster, A.M.,	1832,	1834.
Rev. David Patten, D.D.,	1834,	1841.
Rev. Charles Adams, D.D.,	1841,	1845.
Rev. Robert Allyn, A.M.,	1845,	1848.
Rev. Miner Raymond, D.D.,	1848.	

TEACHERS.

	Accessus.	*Exitus.*
Nathaniel Dunn, A.B.,	1824,	1829.
William Magoun, A.M.,	1827,	1832.
David Gould, A.B.,	1828,	1829.
Rev. John Foster, A.M.,	1829,	1832.
William Mitchell,	1830,	1839.
Rev. Edw. Otheman, A.M.,	1832,	1833.
Samuel P. Dole,	1832,	1833.
Prof. Dan. H. Chase, LL.D.,	1833,	1834.
Rev. Miner Raymond, D.D.,	1833,	1841.
Rev. B. I. Diefendorf, A.M.,	1834,	1835.
Rev. John Roper, A.M.,	1834,	1842.
Prof. Harvey B. Lane, A.M.,	1836,	1838.
Isaac T. Goodnow, A.M.,	1836,	1847.
Rev. Henry De Koven, D.D.,	1837,	1838.
William H. Bussell, A.M.,	1838,	1855.
Rev. Robert Allyn, A.M.,	1841,	1843.
Charles F. Stockwell, A.M.,	1841,	1842.
Rev. John H. Twombly, A.M.,	1843,	1845.
Oliver Marcy, A.M.,	1845,	1862.
Rev. Samuel F. Beach, A.M.,	1846,	1847.
Orange Judd, A.M.,	1847,	1848.
Prof. Fales H. Newhall, A.M.,	1848,	1853.
Rev. Geo. M. Steele, A.M.,	1849,	1853.
Rev. Oliver S. Howe,	1853,	1847.
Simeon F. Chester, A.M.,	1853.	
Rev. Henry W. Warren, A.M.,	1853,	1855.
Rev. Edw. B. Otheman, A.M.,	1855,	1856.
Emerson Warner, M.D.,	1855,	1863.
Rev. Albert D. Vail, A.M.,	1857,	1858.
Rev. Nath'l Fellows, A.M.,	1858,	1860.
Rev. Chas. N. Stowers, A.M.,	1860,	1862.
Edwin B. Harvey, A.M.,	1862.	
Truman H. Kimpton, A.B.,	1862.	
Phillip B. Shinmway, A.B.,	1862,	1864.
Rev. Lorenzo White,	1864.	

PRECEPTRESSES.

	Accessus.	*Exitus.*		*Accessus.*	*Exitus.*
Charlotte L. Tillinghast,	1826,	1827.	Clarissa F. Abbot,	1841,	1842.
Susan Brewer,	1827,	1829.	Emeline B. Jenkins,	1843,	1845.
Lucy Winsor,	1830,	1831.	Isabella Hill,	1845,	1848.
Maria Steele,	1832,	1833.	Louise E. Landon,	1848,	1849.
Catherine Hyde,	1833,	1835.	Sarah North,	1849,	1852.
Nancy Holland,	1835,	1836.	Caroline J. Lane,	1852,	1854.
N. Miranda Nash,	1836,	1837.	Isabella H. Binney,	1854,	1857.
——— Allen,	1837,	1838.	Ruby Warfield,	1857,	1864.
Hannah M. Thompson,	1838,	1841.			

TEACHERS OF MUSIC.

	Accessus.	*Exitus.*		*Accessus.*	*Exitus.*
Hannah Potter,	1835,	1836.	Cordelia M. Kettelle,	1849,	1854.
Ann Eliza Sperry,	1836,	1838.	Sarah M. Kettelle,	1850,	1855.
Ednah C. Shaw,	1838,	1838.	Mahala E. Chester,	1854,	1857.
Almira Davis,	1838,	1839.	Isabella H. Andrews,	1855,	1857.
Lydia J. Belcher,	1839,	1840.	Miranda Chapin,	1857,	1858.
Jennette Ashley,	1840,	1841.	Ellen A. Doe,	1858,	1860.
Nancy H. Goldbury,	1841,	1842.	Simeon Fuller,	1861,	1863.
Charles W. Warren,	1842,	1844.	Mary I. Raymond,	1863.	
Eliza Gilbert Brewer,	1845,	1849.			

STEWARDS.

	Accessus.	*Exitus.*		*Accessus.*	*Exitus.*
Ebenezer Thompson,	1826,	1828.	Reuben Palmer,	1842,	1843.
Solomon Wecks,	1828,	1832.	James Howe,	1843,	1847.
Rev. Edward Hyde,	1832,	1833.	Alexander P. Lane,	1847,	1850.
Miles Belden, M.D.,	1833,	1834.	John M. Merrick, Esq.,	1850,	1852.
Davis Smith,	1834,	1835.	Samuel Warner, Esq.,	1852,	1855.
Rev. John W. Hardy,	1835,	1838.	John M Merrick,	1855,	1861.
William Healy, Jr.,	1838,	1842	Robert O. Sessions,	1861.	

"*OLD ACADEMY.*"

The "Old Academy" building was of brick, two stories high, entered by a door and high steps on the south side. The east-half of the lower floor was the schoolroom, and the story over it was a dormitory for the "small boys," who were under the care of a tutor. There were ten or a dozen or more beds ranged around the room. The west-half of the lower floor was divided into two rooms; one used for recitation, the other for study. The story above had two dormitories, and a lobby where the library (?) was kept. The basement had two or three dormitories (!!) and recitation rooms; and in the northwest corner was the chemical laboratory; and, hard by, the "dungeon," where thoughtless boys had opportunity for "fasting, meditation, and ———!"



Thos Chubbuck, Engr. Springfield, Mo

WESLEYAN ACADEMY - BOARDING HOUSE.

ERECTED, 1856-7.

VOTE OF THE TOWN, APRIL 6, 1764, AT A SPECIAL MEETING, TO CONVEY LAND FOR A GRIST-MILL TO STEBBINS & MILLER. Page 157.

"Voted and Granted to Caleb Stebbins of this Town and to Joseph Miller of Springfield [Ludlow now] Four acres of Land for the Priviledge or Conveniancy of Erecting a Grist Mill on or near the South side of the North Ministry Lot in this Town on a Brook Called 12 mile Brook — upon condition that the said Stebbins & Miller will Erect or cause to be Erected a good Grist Mill and keep (or cause to be kept) the Said mill in good Repair from the Time of said mill being Builded thence forward for the Space of 15 Years on said Brook — and also upon Condition that the said Stebbins and Miller will secure & save this Town from any & all Charges which may any way arise on account thereof During the Natural Life of the Rev[d] Noah Mirick now Pastor of this Town — and also upon Condition that the said Stebbins & Miller will give or pay or cause to be paid to this Town the Sum of Twenty four Shillings Lawful money at the Decease of the Said Rev[d] Noah Mirick — Upon the Said Stebbins & Miller fullfilling the before mentioned Conditions the said 4 acres of Land is to be theirs forever but if not then the Said Land is to return to this Town again.

"Attest, EZRA BARKER *Town Clerk.*"

FIRST WOOLLEN MILL. Page 160.

"The first woollen mill in Wilbraham was built by Sumner Sessions, in the South Parish, on a mill-stream called Scantic, in A. D. 1845. It was rented and operations commenced by Levi Bradford and Eleazer Scripter, in April, 1846. Business was commenced with one set of machinery for the manufacture of satinet. In April, 1847, Mr. Bradford retired from the firm, and Luther E. Sage, William V. Sessions, and Samuel Beebe became partners, and the firm name was changed to Scripter, Sage, & Co. Another set of machinery was added by the new Company. The necessary increase of power was obtained by the purchase of the carding-machine privilege just above on the same stream. Eleazer Scripter was chosen agent and treasurer of the company. The manufacture of satinets, tweeds, cassimeres, and doeskins was carried on by this company until January, 1856. An act of incorporation having been obtained from the Legislature of Massachusetts, a new company was formed, January 30, 1856, with a capital of twenty thousand dollars. The name of the company was "The South Wilbraham Manufacturing Company." E. Scripter acted as agent and treasurer for the company until January, 1860, when, on account of failing health, he retired from the management of the concern, and William V. Sessions was appointed in his place, which position he still occupies. In 1862, a large addition to the mill was built, and still another set of machinery added. The necessary increase of power being obtained from a steam-engine. The present capacity of the mill for turning off goods is one thousand yards of three-fourths satinet per day." — *From William V. Sessions, Esq.*

STAGES OF SIKES AND PEASE. Page 161.

Sikes and Pease made large contracts with the government for carrying mails not only in New England but in the Southern States. I have before me five original contracts, made by Levi Pease with the Postmaster

General. They were furnished me by James Parker, Esq., of Springfield. One of these contracts, bearing date 1794, made by Timothy Pickering, Postmaster General, with Pease, defines the time for carrying the mail between Brookfield and Albany, through Northampton. "The mail was to leave Brookfield Wednesday, Friday, Monday, at 9, A. M., and arrive at Northampton same days at 6, P. M. Leave Northampton Thursday, Saturday, Tuesday, at 5, A. M., and arrive at Pittsfield same days at 6, P. M. Leave Pittsfield Friday, Monday, Wednesday, at 5, A. M., and arrive at Albany same days at 6, P. M. Three days were occupied in driving from Brookfield to Albany.

Mr. Parker had a contract of Sikes of a much earlier date, but some friend, to whom he had loaned it, had mislaid it, and I am denied the pleasure of giving the reader a copy of it, as I hoped to do.

CC. p. 168.

SPRINGFIELD AND WILBRAHAM COMPARED. Page 161.

The comparative wealth of the towns of Wilbraham and Springfield is well illustrated by the following table which I find among the papers left by Calvin Stebbins. It shows the amount paid by each town on $100 of the State tax.

1763,	Springfield	paid	$11.14	on $1,000,	Wilbraham	$1.67
1790,	"	"	4.18	"	"	3.54
1800,	"	"	3.96	"	"	2.15
1810,	"	"	4.27	"	"	2.28
1820,	"	"	5.79	"	"	1.77
1830,	"	"	8.12	"	"	1.95
1840,	"	"	13.17	"	"	1.55

The table ends with this year. It will be observed that in 1790 Springfield was but a little over one-eighth richer than Wilbraham; in 1840, it was nine times richer. Calvin Stebbins says that the population of this town, in 1790, was 1,555. It is stated by Hon. George Bliss in his address, 1828, that in 1791 there were but 1574 inhabitants in the town of Springfield. These statements are both verified by the State census, published with notes in 1863. There was a time, therefore, when the daughter had nearly attained the mother's stature and fortune. Now, how changed!

A TABLE SHOWING THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF EACH YEAR, FROM 1731 *TO* 1783. *ALSO THE SAME FOR EACH DECENNIAL.*

Year.	Deaths.	Births.	Year.	Deaths.	Births.	Year.	Deaths.	Births.	Year.	Deaths.	Births.	Year.	Deaths.	Births.	Year.	Deaths.	Births.
1731			1741	2	9	1751	5	12	1761	5	20	1771	12	32	1781	9	40
1732			1742	7	10	1752	3	14	1762	3	22	1772	7	34	1782.	17	18
1733		2	1743	1	7	1753	2	12	1763	4	21	1773	16	40	1783	16	14
1734		6	1744	1	12	1754	8	12	1764	10	23	1774	32	34			
1735	1	4	1745	2	10	1755	3	14	1765	5	23	1775	23	52	1734–43	12	59
1736	1	4	1746	1	13	1756	3	19	1766	9	27	1776	47	43	1743–53	24	128
1737	1	4	1747		10	1757	10	18	1767	3	24	1777	19	39	1753–63	52	179
1738		9	1748	3	13	1758	6	13	1768	7	26	1778	18	41	1763–73	81	280
1739	1	10	1749	4	9	1759	12	12	1769	8	30	1779	16	46	1773–83	234	457
1740			1750	5	17	1760	2	20	1770	8	26	1780	19	28			

In Wales and the Half-mile there were 82 births and 26 deaths before the incorporation of the town, making in all 1,118 births and 423 deaths. From 1762 to 1784, inclusive, there were 221 intentions of marriage published.

In 1776, 12 died in the army, in addition to 47 who died at home, making 59.

EXPENSES OF THE TOWN OF WILBRAHAM FOR THE FIRST TEN YEARS AFTER ITS INCORPORATION, 1764–1773.

Year.	Ministry.	Poor.	Extra.	Schools.	Highways.
1764	£51 2 0	£2 15 10		£15 0 0	£7 17 8
1765	55 2 7¾	3 0 0	7 0	20 0 0	
1766	48 8 6½	3 0 0	3 17 2	20 0 0	
1767	50 1 2			20 0 0	35 0 0
1768	49 1 ¾	4 0 0	2 5 0	20 0 0	35 0 0
1769	50 0 0	5 0 0	20 3 8	25 0 0	35 0 0
1770	49 0 0	6 0 0	4 15 10	27 0 0	35 0 0
1771	51 0 0	6 0 0	14 5	30 0 0	35 0 0
1772	51 10 0	5 0 0		30 0 0	35 0 0
1773	51 10 0		6 9	30 0 0	40 0 0
	£506 15 4½	£34 15 10	£32 9 10	£217 0 0	£257 17 8

Total expenses, £1,040 7s 10¼ d.

This, reduced to decimal currency, would be: —

For Support of the poor, . .	$115.67	For a fine for neglect of highways,	2.50
" Contingent or extra expenses,	107.97	" Services of Clerk & Treasurer,	5.50
" Schooling, ...	723.17¼		$1,815.59
" Highways, ...	837.67		

EXPENSES OF THE TOWN FROM 1790 *TO* 1799 *INCLUSIVE, FOR HIGHWAYS, SCHOOLS, &c.*

Constable or Collector's services, .	$251.95	Turnpike road along Chicopee River,	$266.33
Surveying roads, ...	2.25	Highways, ...	3,033.33
Damage for roads passing over lands,	2.00	Common schools, ...	3,096.33
Removing paupers, ...	15.75	Grammar school, ...	80.00
Supporting paupers, H. B., . .	8.75	Contingent expense, ...	617.17
Special grants for roads and bridges,	79.16		$7,453.02

This is more than four times the expenses of the period eighteen years before, from 1763 to 1772.

EXPENSES FROM 1831 *TO* 1840, *INCLUSIVE.*

Damages for roads passing over lands,	$43.50	Town debts,	589.00
Constable's services,	258.75	Outstanding claims,	750.00
Borrowed money,	290.00	Contingent expenses for nine years,	2,460.00
Surplus revenue, taken to pay borrowed money,	450.00	Expenses of poor,	6,211.50
Paying debts of the town,	500.00	Schools,	7,200.00
Special grants for roads,	736.55	Highways,	10,000.00
			$29,490.27

About four times the amount of the expenses of the decade, forty years previous.

CHARACTER OF THE EARLY INHABITANTS. Page 168.

The controlling power of the appetites is known to be characteristic of all pioneer and hardy life. No one is surprised, therefore, to learn that in the early history of the town there is evidence that our ancestors did not escape their influence. Intemperance was not uncommon. At "raisings" it was almost customary for men, at other times temperate, to become intoxicated. The church records contain several cases of discipline for this vice. In thirty-eight years, before 1779, there were fifty-five cases of premarital conceptions, and thirteen births out of the marriage relation, — averaging almost two a year.

Hon. George Bliss, in his address, 1828, says of the early settlers of Springfield, "Drunkenness and lewdness seem, at that period, to have been not very uncommon. They were much more generally and more severely punished than they now are." Something besides punishment is needed to prevent vice. Intelligence and virtue are its only antidote.

Marcus Lyon, whose murder is spoken of in the Address, was a resident of Woodstock, Conn., and was returning from a journey on horseback to Caznovia, New York. He was met by two Irishmen, Dominick Daly and James Halligan, on the road at the end of the mountain, in a dark, obscure spot, and foully murdered, and his body dragged through the bushes and thrown into the Chicopee. The murderers were pursued, overtaken near the city of New York, tried, convicted, and hung at Northampton, that being the shire town of old Hampshire County. I think that was the first and the last *execution* for murder in this county.

By the upsetting of a pleasure-boat on Nine-Mile Pond, April 29,

1799, Gordon Bliss, Leonard Bliss, and Asenath Bliss, children of Levi Bliss, and Abigail Merrick, daughter of Dr. Samuel F. Merrick, and Mary Warriner, daughter of Noah Warriner, and Guy Johnson, of Tolland, Connecticut, were drowned. The accident cast a gloom over the town for a long time.

A homicide was committed in the South Parish about twenty years ago, which caused a great excitement.

SLAVERY IN WILBRAHAM.

There were at least five slaves in the town, all in the North Parish. The "Worthy Rev. Noah Mirrick" had three, Noke (Oronoke), Sip (Scipio), and Suke; Mr. David Merrick had one, Cæsar, and Capt. John Shaw had one, name unknown. I think there must have been two or three more, by references in the records.

By a decision of the Supreme Court all slaves in Massachusetts were freed under the Constitution framed in 1780. Some of the slaves were run out of the State and sold. Of Rev. Mr. Merrick's slaves, Suke died before the day of freedom; Noke was sold to some one in Springfield, and nothing more is known of him; Sip, poor fellow, and Capt. Shaw's negro came to a sad end. Sip fell to Dr. Samuel F. Merrick. The doctor and captain thought it hard to lose their property, and determined to get the slaves into Connecticut and sell them. Mrs. Merrick was from Haddam, and Shaw was from that vicinity. The doctor and his wife, as well as Shaw, had been accustomed to go down and spend Election with their friends, and this year invited Sip and Sam — if that was the name of Shaw's slave — to go with them. The poor fellows were in ecstasies at the prospect of such a trip to Hartford with Massas to see the vessels, and, taking their fiddles, went. They were sold secretly and invited to go on board a sloop, lying at the wharf, to have a good time; and while fiddling and drinking the sloop dropped into the stream, spread sail, and disappeared down the river. The poor fellows were never heard of more! Of Cæsar's end nothing is known. Comment is unnecessary. We live in 1863.

On the other hand, slaves ran away from Connecticut and New York, and not a few found refuge in this town. A severe struggle took place at Mr. Edward Morris's, where two fugitives had taken refuge. Their masters or hunters came after them, and a most desperate fight ensued, in which one escaped to the woods, and the other was taken and bound and carried away. I am not aware that a slave ever trod the soil of the South

Parish, unless a fugitive; and I have no knowledge that any assistance was ever rendered to the hunter when he sought his human prey. There never will be. The hour of God's eternal purpose has struck. Not sprinkled with the blood of lambs, but with the blood of men, does he now keep his people's passover. The flaming sword of the avenging angel stretches over the land, and the bondmen go out under it. Glory to God in the Highest!

DD. p. 169.

GRADUATES OF COLLEGES.

Aaron Bliss graduated at Yale College, 1776; did not enter professional life; settled as a farmer; was a man of great eccentricity, but of stern puritan piety; was married, but left no children; died, 1824.

Pliny Merrick, son of Rev. Noah Merrick, Harvard College, 1776. "After completing his collegiate course, he devoted himself to the study of divinity, and was duly licensed to preach as a minister of the Congregational denomination; but he never officiated in the capacity as a candidate for settlement in any parish or religious society. His particular attention was very soon afterwards attracted to the legal profession; and to prepare himself for its practice he placed himself under the instruction of Oakes Angier, Esq., of Bridgewater, who was one of the most distinguished lawyers of the day. Having been admitted to the bar in the county of Plymouth, Mr. Merrick returned to his native town and opened an office there. But, after residing there one or two years, he removed to Brookfield, then one of the most populous and flourishing towns in the county of Worcester, and resided there during the remainder of his life. He attained to high social position, and to an eminent rank in his profession. And he was esteemed by all his acquaintances not only as a faithful, able, and eloquent counsellor, but as a good citizen, and a worthy, just, and upright man. He died the second of March, 1814." His only surviving son is Hon. Pliny Merrick, Judge of the Supreme Court.

Walter King, son of William King, was born November, 1758; graduated at Yale College in 1782; was ordained pastor of the church in Norwich (Chelsea), Conn., May 24, 1787; was dismissed in August, 1811; was installed at Williamstown, Mass., July 6, 1813; and died of a fit of apoplexy that seized him in the pulpit, December 1, 1815, aged fifty-seven. He published a sermon at the ordination of Daniel Hale, 1797, and a

sermon on taking leave of his people at Norwich. — *Dr. Sprague's Annals of the American Pulpit*, Vol. II., p. 319.

Joseph Badger, son of Henry Badger; Y. C., 1785. He was in many respects a very remarkable man; had a relish for hard service, and was in it all his life. He was a soldier in the Revolution for many years, and his education when he left the army was very limited. He paid his own way through college, prepared for the ministry, and settled in Blandford, October 24, 1787. In 1800 he became a missionary of the "Connecticut Missionary Society," to the "Western Reserve," Ohio. His hardships were great, as well as his perils. He preached to the Indians as well as to the whites. He died in Wood County, Ohio, in 1846, aged eighty-nine years. A most interesting account is given of his labors and sufferings in the *Quarterly Register*, Vol. XIII., p. 317, and also in "A Memoir," published at Hudson, Ohio, 1851, by Prof. Henry N. Day.

Timothy Burt, "son of Gideon Burt, graduated at Yale, 1794; settled in Canandaigua as a lawyer, after being admitted to the bar, and gave promise of attaining a high social and professional position, which he did not live to realize. Died, 1811."

Oliver Bliss, "son of Oliver, graduated in 1795, at Yale; pursued the profession of law in Western Pennsylvania, where he died in 1824."

"Gordon Bliss, son of Levi, graduated at Dartmouth College, 1797. He had just completed his legal studies and been admitted to the bar, when he met with an untimely death in Nine-mile Pond, with five others, April 29, 1799."

Henry Ely, Yale College, 1798. "A clergyman."

Judah Bliss, son of Abel; Williams College. He "practised as a physician in town for a time; afterwards in Tolland, Conn., and in the city of Hartford. He removed to Buffalo, New York, in 1819, and engaged extensively in land speculations, which did not prove fortunate. He died near the year 1830. He had the reputation of being a skilful physician."

Oliver Bliss Morris, son of Edward; Williams College, 1801; read law with Hon. George Bliss, of Springfield, where he settled; entered the bar, 1804; represented the town in the Legislature for three successive years, from 1809; was Register of Probate for several years, and appointed Judge of Probate, 1829, which office he held till 1858. He was also for many years County Attorney. He is an eminent advocate, a sound lawyer, an upright judge, and steadfast friend.

Stewart Beebe, son of Stewart; Williams College, 1803. He settled

as a lawyer in Connecticut; then returned here, where he died, October 7, 1851.

Enoch Burt, Princeton, N. J., 1805; "He was a machinist in early life, and possessed uncommon inventive powers. Was missionary in the West till 1820; settled in Tolland, May 19, 1821; in Manchester, Conn., 1824–28, and was residing there 1854."

Walter Beebe, son of Stewart; Williams College, 1810; died at Cadiz, Ohio, Jan. 24, 1836.

Henry Dwight Chapin, son of Jason; Yale College, 1814. A lawyer, first in New Marlborough, Maryland, now in Baltimore.

Robert Russell; Williams College, 1811.

Moses Warren, son of Rev. Moses; Williams College, 1812.

William S. Burt; Union College, 1818; a celebrated teacher; tutor in Amherst College; preceptor of an academy in Newburg, New York, and afterwards of one in Ithaca, N. Y., where he died, 1855.

Noah C. Saxton; Union College, 1818; licensed as a preacher, October, 1819; editor of the *New York Evangelist;* assistant of the revivalist, Rev. Asahel Nettleton; and died June 19, 1834.

John B. Warren, son of Rev. Moses; Brown University. He preached in the South for many years.

Warren Isham; Union College, 1819. A clergyman and editor in the West.

Horace Sessions, son of Robert; Yale College, 1821; studied theology at Andover; graduated, 1824. "Spent a few months as agent of the United Foreign Mission Society, then became an agent of the American Colonization Society. He collected a company of colored people, and went to Liberia, Africa, with them. He died on the passage home, March 4, 1826."

Jacob F. Warner; Amherst College, 1829; clergyman.

Ezekiel Russell; Amherst College, 1829; studied theology in Andover, after teaching in Hadley Academy; tutor in college; settled in North Adams, 1836–39; pastor of the Fourth Church in Springfield, 1839–49; settled as pastor of the Congregational Church in East Randolph, May 8, 1850, where he now preaches; received the honorary degree of D. D., 185–. He has written much for religious papers and quarterlies, and has usually had several private pupils under his instruction.

Asahel Utley; Brown University, ———; "Practised law with considerable success, in East Haddam, Conn.; and afterwards in the city of Middletown, where he died, 1832."

Orlow M. Dorman; Amherst College, 1831. Went to Florida.

John W. Merrill; Wesleyan University, Conn., 1834. An able preacher and scholar, now Professor in the Biblical Institute, Concord, New Hampshire.

Rufus P. Stebbins; Amherst College, 1834; Theological School, Cambridge, 1837; honorary degree of D. D., Harvard College, 1851; settled in Leominster, September 20, 1837–44; President of the Meadville Theological School, Meadville, Pa., 1844–56; pastor of a church in Woburn, 1857—, where he now resides. He has written for religious papers and journals, and published several sermons and literary addresses.

Annis Merrill; Wesleyan University, 1835. Lawyer in San Francisco.

Lycortes L. Brewer; Amherst College, 1836. Physician at Baton Rouge, La.

Frederick Merrick; Wesleyan University, 1837. Professor in the University, and now President of the Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio; D. D.

Francis Lord Fuller; Amherst College, 1834. Preacher at the West.

William L. Bliss; Wesleyan University, 1842, and Yale Medical College.

Emilius Brewer; Amherst College, 1845; attorney and editor, Port Gibson; died, 1855.

George H. Bliss; Wesleyan University, 1842.

Horatio Stebbins; Harvard College, 1848; Cambridge Theological School, 1851; settled at Fitchburg, then at Portland, Me., where he now preaches.

Joel B. Clough, Wesleyan University, 1848. Chief Engineer, Alexandria, Va.

William Lothrop Burt; Harvard College, 1850; law school, Harvard College, LL. B., 1853; practising law in Boston; on the staff of Maj.-Gen. Johnson, of Texas.

George H. Merrick; Amherst College, 1850; died, 1841.

Marshall Calkins; Union College, 1853; Philadelphia Medical College.

Dr. Calkins "was for six years professor in different departments of medical science in two of the medical colleges of Philadelphia; was joint author, with the late Dr. Norton, of a work on 'Thoracic Diseases,' which has passed through two editions, and, at the solicitation of his relatives and former friends, he located in Springfield, where he quickly obtained a large and lucrative practice."

William A. Smith; Wesleyan University, 1854; preacher in Illinois.

Solomon Chapin; Wesleyan University, 1857; tutor and preacher.

Edwin W. Virgin; Wesleyan University, 1857; preacher.

John W. Virgin ; Williams College, 1858.
Charles H. Gates ; Amherst College; clergyman.
Gilbert Webster ; Union College, 1858; attorney.
William E. Morgan ; Wesleyan University.
George C. Bowen ; Amherst College, 1859.
Calvin Stebbins ; Amherst College. 1862.

PROFESSIONAL MEN NOT GRADUATES OF COLLEGE.

Samuel F. Merrick,* M.D. After studying with Dr. Brainard, of Haddam, Conn., he was admittted to practice medicine. During the Revolutionary War he was a surgeon in Col. Porter's regiment that went through the wilderness to reinforce the army before Quebec, and was in the disastrous retreat from Canada. After the war he settled in his native place as a farmer, and died in 1836. He was long a leading magistrate of the town.

Isaac Wood,* M.D.
Judah Stebbins,* M.D.
John W. Langdon,* Methodist preacher.
Oliver Langdon,* " "
Solomon Langdon,* " "
Cyrus Stebbins,* D.D., Methodist preacher, then Episcopal rector.
Elijah Stebbins,* Methodist preacher.
Samuel Stebbins,* Congregational preacher.
Artemas Stebbins, Methodist preacher.
Calvin Brewer, " "
Henry Battin, " "
Lorin Collins, " "
Dixon Stebbins,* " "
Edwin Crocker, Universalist preacher.
Andrew Jackson Stebbins, Universalist preacher.
Daniel E. Chapin, D.D., Methodist preacher.
Jonathan Chapin, " "
Luther Brewer, M.D.
Timothy Burr,* M.D.
Jesse W. Rice,* M.D.
Daniel D. Merrick,* M.D.
Moses K. Brewer, M.D.

* Those with stars are dead.

Pitkin B. Rice, M.D.
Ralph Glover, M.D.
Emery Thayer, M.D.
William Carpenter, M.D.
Lorenzo Firmin, M.D.
Jared Cone, M.D.
Edwin McCray, M.D.
William McCray, M.D.
Roderick Stebbins, M.D.
Hon. George Merrick, judge and attorney.
Richard D. Morris, attorney.
Anson L. Brewer, attorney.
Lewis Knight, attorney.
Hon. Thomas E. Merrick, Judge of the Supreme Court, New Orleans.
Daniel S. Brewer, attorney, St. Francisville, La.
William M. Merrick, draughtsman, Mil. Sec., Alexandria, Va.

EDUCATED LADIES AND TEACHERS.

Susan Brewer, Preceptress of the Wesleyan Academy 1828–9, and Principal of Tuscumbia, Tuscaloosa, and Washington Female Colleges.

Lucinda Stebbins.*

Jennette M. Brewer, Grad. Wesleyan Academy, 1848.
Lucy A. Merrill, " " " 1849.
Mary F. Mowry, " " " 1856.

Elizabeth Moulton, Graduate Wesleyan Academy, 1856; teacher in the Academy, 1858.

Sarah E. Morgan, Graduate Wesleyan Academy, 1858.
Susan E. Bushnell, " " " 1858.

Lucretia Noble, Graduate Wesleyan Academy, 1857; teacher in Boston.

Susan J. Parker, Graduate Wesleyan Academy, 1860; preceptress.
Emma E. Wright, " " " 1860; teacher.
Mary G. Deane, " " " 1862.

Lydia A. Sessions, Holyoke Sem., 1856; teacher in the same institution 1856–9, then Principal of Lake Erie Female Seminary at Painesville, Ohio, where she still teaches.

Harriet E. Sessions, Mt. Holyoke Seminary, 1856; teacher there.

Sarah Bebee, " " " 1856; teacher in Monson Academy.

Ellen P. Bowers, Mt. Holyoke Seminary, 1858; teacher there.

Miscellaneous.

TOWN CLERKS OF WILBRAHAM.

1741–55,	David Merrick, Prec't Clerk.	1827,	Luther Brewer, Town Clerk.
1756–63,	Isaac Brewer, " "	1828,	John McCray, "
1763–73,	Ezra Barker, Town Clerk.	1829–36,	Sylvanus Stebbins, "
1773–78,	James Warriner, "	1837–38,	Luther Brewer, "
1779–80,	Noah Warriner, "	1839,	Luther B. Bliss, "
1781–85,	James Warriner, "	1840–41,	John M. Merrick, "
1785–86,	Pliny Merrick, "	1842,	John McCray, "
1786–90,	Samuel F. Merrick, "	1846–47,	Roderick S. Merrick, "
1791–92,	John Buckland, "	1848–49,	Solomon C. Spelman, "
1793,	Daniel Dana, "	1850,	Jesse W. Rice, "
1793–1805,	Robert Sessions, "	1851–52,	Luther B. Bliss, "
1805–10,	Philip Morgan, "	1853–54,	Horace M. Sessions, "
1810–11,	Augustus Sisson, "	1855,	Roderick Burt, "
1811–12,	Abel Bliss, "	1856,	Ralph Glover, "
1812–14,	Philip Morgan, "	1857–58,	William P. Spelman, "
1814–20,	Moses Burt, "	1869–60,	H. Bridgman Brewer, "
1820–24,	Calvin Stebbins, "	1861,	Howard Staunton, "
1824–25,	Luther Brewer, "	1862,	James Staunton, "
1826,	William Wood, "	1863,	John M. Merrick, "

REPRESENTATIVES FROM WILBRAHAM TO THE GENERAL COURT AT BOSTON.

The following is a list of the Representatives sent to the General Court from 1786 to 1863. From 1763 till the Revolutionary War, the town voted with Springfield for Representatives: —

1786–88,	Phineas Stebbins.
1789–92,	None.
1793–94,	John Bliss.
1795,	None.
1796–1803,	John Bliss.
1804,	None.
1805,	Phineas Stebbins.
1806,	None.
1807,	Wm. Rindge and Solomon Wright.
1808,	None.
1809,	William Rindge and Augustus Sisson.
1810,	Augustus Sisson and Walter Stebbins.
1811,	Walter Stebbins and Abel Bliss, Jr.
1812,	None.
1813,	Wm. Clark and Joseph Lathrop.
1814–15,	Robert Sessions and Joseph Lathrop.
1816,	Robert Sessions and Moses Burt.
1817,	Robert Sessions and William Wood.
1818–19,	None.
1820,	Abel Bliss.
1821–23,	None.
1824,	Abel Bliss.
1825,	Voted not to send.
1826,	Abel Bliss and Dudley B. Post.
1827,	Abel Bliss and Robert Sessions.
1828,	Luther Brewer.
1829,	Luther Brewer and Jacob B. Merrick.
1830,	William S. Burt and Jacob B. Merrick.
1831,	Moses Burt and Wm. S. Burt.
1832,	Abraham Avery and Wm. S. Burt. (And I believe this was the year that Abel Bliss was elected to the Senate.)
1833,	Stephen Stebbins.
1834,	Abraham Avery and Stephen Stebbins.
1835,	Walter Stebbins and Wm. Knight.
1836,	Walter Stebbins and Wm. Knight.
1837,	Walter Stebbins and Wm. Wood.
1838,	Jesse W. Rice, M.D., and William V. Sessions.
1839,	Stephen Stebbins.
1840,	John Newell.
1841,	Marcus Cady, M.D.
1842,	John Carpenter.

1843, Samuel Beebe.
1844, Voted not to send.
1845, No choice.
1846, Voted not to send.
1847, *John Smith.*
1848, None elected.
1849, No choice; two meetings for the purpose.
1850, Roderick S. Merrick, second meeting.
1851, S. C. Spelman.
1852, No choice.
1853, Philip P. Potter.
1854, John W. Langdon.
1855, John Baldwin.
1856, John B. Morris.
1857, Roderick Burt, Dist. No. 3.
1858, Rep. from Longmeadow, "
1859, Wm. P. Spelman, "
1860, Rep. from Longmeadow, "
1861, Joseph McGregory, "
1862, Rep. from Longmeadow, "
1863, Walter Hitchcock, "

THE WOODLAND DELL CEMETERY.

This is very pleasantly located, near and east of the village, in the North Parish. The grounds now occupied by this association, containing ten and a half acres, were first purchased by R. R. Wright, H. Budy Brewer and J. M. Merrick, at the cost of eleven hundred dollars.

The association was organized under the General Statutes, February 12, 1858.

A board of trustees, nine in number, are chosen annually, who have the care of the property.

The first burial in these grounds was Mrs. Louisa W. Wright, the wife of R. R. Wright, who died December 26, 1851.

The number of burials to November 20, 1863, is fifty-nine. The number by removal from other localities is forty-three; total, one hundred and two.

The officers are R. R. Wright, president; Albert Smith, vice-president; and J. M. Merrick, clerk and treasurer.

LIST OF PHYSICIANS.

John Stearns,
Gordon Percival,
Samuel F. Merrick,
Judah Bliss,
Abiah Southworth,
Converse Butler,
Luther Brewer,
Jacob Lyman,
Elisha Ladd,
Gideon Kibbe,
Jesse W. Rice,
John Goodale,
Daniel Ufford,
Edwin McCray,
Marcus Cady,
—— Bottom.

LIST OF LAWYERS.

William Knight,
Asa Olmstead,
Otis Norcross.

The two latter were in town only a few years, about thirty or forty years ago. I believe there has been no lawyer in town for some years.

EARLY TAVERN ON BAY ROAD.

RICHARD FELLOWS'S PETITION.

That the General Court at Boston grant him Two Hundred Acres of upland & Meadow to be laid to George Cotton & Benj. Cooley, on Chicopee River, (now corner of Monson), to be Rate free under the following condition: Build a House suitable to entertain travallers man & Beast with lodging & food with Beer Wine & strong liquors provided they Build within one Year & Maintain & Entertain travellers for Seven Years.

The Court granted their request October 23, 1657.

MAPS AND PAINTINGS OF WILBRAHAM SCENERY.

There are two maps of Wilbraham in the State archives. The one protracted on a scale ten parts to an inch, each of which parts represents twenty rods. It is dated May 29, 1795; James Shaw and Robert Sessions, Committee. It is drawn with pen and ink. There is a straight line west of the mountains, from Chicopee River to Somers, to represent the west road; another on the north end to represent the "Great Road;" another through the mountain in the South Parish, and bearing southeast, to the corner of the town. A crinkled line represents the Scantic and Chicopee Rivers, and Twelve-mile Brook. A rough figure of a house represents Caleb Stebbins's mill, the North and South Parish Meeting-houses, and Burt's and Leach's mills. A long oval represents the North Mountain, from the Scantic to the Chicopee; a short one, truncated at the south end, the South Mountain. Five ovals or circles represent as many ponds or swamps on the west side of the town. The "elbows" had not been annexed when this map was projected, and are omitted. The other map was projected by A. Bliss about forty years ago, from a survey ordered by the State. It is shaded with different colors to represent different soils and forests, and is withal a pretty ambitious work. Monson map, the work of the same surveyor, shows the same tinted glories. The dimensions of the town, according to Bliss's survey, are as follows: West line, beginning at Chicopee River, south two and one-half degrees east, 1,478 rods between Springfield and Wilbraham; and south three and one-half degrees east, 1,234 rods between Longmeadow and Wilbraham; in all, 2,712 rods on the west side.

The south line on Connecticut measures 1,420 rods.

The east line, north one and one-half degrees west, 2,626 rods between Monson and Wilbraham; north one and one-sixth degree west, 704 rods between Palmer and Wilbraham; east line, in all, 3,330 rods.

The older map gives the dimensions as follows: —

Commencing at Chicopee River, as before, south three degrees east, four miles to the corner of Longmeadow; then south the same point three miles on Longmeadow to Connecticut. Then east seven degrees south on Connecticut line, four miles and one-half to Monson Corner. Then north three degrees west, 2,250 rods to the Post Road, being a corner of Monson and Palmer. Then on the same point on the west line of Palmer, 320 rods. Then west three degrees south, on land belonging to Springfield, 240 rods to Chicopee River. Then follow the river to the place of starting. It seems that the "elbows" carried the east line of the town 384 rods further north than it went before they were annexed.

PAINTINGS OF THE SCENERY IN WILBRAHAM.

I am most happy to report that the beautiful scenery of Wilbraham has found an artist and a patron. I have seen and been charmed by the two paintings described below, in an article taken from the *Zion's Herald*, Feb. 10, 1864. They are all that the critic describes them to be. I have also seen two others, just finished, of equal, if not greater, beauty. One is an autumn scene, taken from a little lower down the mountain than the first two were, and looking out over the plains to the Western Mountains. The foliage is admirably tinted, and the autumnal haze lies on the distant plains and mountains. The other is taken from the north end of Nine-mile Pond, the view being toward the south, the mountains forming the distant background of the picture. The execution is most admirable.

"Wilbraham has many lovers of her scenery no less than of her school; but she has hitherto found no way of revealing her beauties to other eyes than those that have been fastened upon her. But she need lament her lot no longer. Two paintings, at Williams & Everett's gallery, in this city, proclaim her beauty to every eye. They were painted for Abraham Avery, of Boston, by Mr. Bricher, a young artist of great promise, and, judging from these works, of great achievement. The views are taken from a spot well-known to every Wilbraham student, — at the head of the upper grove that contains 'the pulpit,' on the road winding up the mountain, behind the church. It is across the street from the little red cottage of the Goody Blake, of that neighborhood, whose 'hut was on the cold hillside.' On the left of the picture are these favorite woods, the scene of many a prayer-meeting, oratorical explosion, lounging, reading, or musing solitaries, or of the law-breaking trysts of love's young dream. The trees are superbly painted, being full of rich color and shade. One could almost transport himself thither, they are so life-like and enchanting. But the eye must not linger in their gothic greenness, nor dwell too long upon the truthfully-rough fields under the feet or on the little old cottage aforesaid, snugly tucked away in the hillside in the opposite corner. More familiar scenes below allure it. There creeps the street, its few houses sprinkled among the many trees, like white flowers blossoming on a green river. No stiller in the picture than in the fact is the pleasant old road. With pre-Raphael-

ite faithfulness the artist puts upon it no living creature, though he might have painted the aged gray postman with his aged gray horse, and still had it void of life, so ghostly is that sole animator of the seemingly-deserted village. The immense and not inartistic pile of the boarding-house, most inartistic though it be in location, is partially hidden by the projecting woods behind the Academy hill, which grove prevents the sight of the Academy buildings.

"Beyond lie the plains, patched with herbage, ploughed fields, trees and houses, and flecked with the shade and sunshine of a midsummer day. A lover of nature could gaze on it for hours without weariness, a lover of Wilbraham with ever-increasing pleasure.

"The companion picture gives us the northwestern view from the same spot. The foreground is fictitious, in order to avoid repetition, though the rock in the left-hand corner is a veritable copy of the boulder perched upon the hill back of the house of J. Wesley Bliss, Esq. The woods in the foreground are more beautiful, if possible, than those in the first picture. The outlook is true to the fact. The broad champaign, beautifully toned and varied, and relieved of its flatness, gathers to the gorge between Mounts Holyoke and Tom. These mountains are perfect, even to the bits of houses that mar their summits. Through the opening is seen Northampton. The mountains rise behind her, and conclude the scene.

"We understand that others are on the easel, representing the Nine-mile Pond, Glen, etc. The paintings attract much attention, and have been highly commended in the *Transcript* and the *Gazette*. We hope they and their forthcoming kindred will be engraved. The first, at least, should be, as many a child of the Old Wesleyan will wish it, on his walls. The thanks of all her ten thousand children, more or less, will assuredly be given to the munificence of the gentleman who ordered the works, as well as to the artist who executed them."

Fragments.

I have gathered from various sources the following facts and traditions, which may be of interest to the curious in such matters. They are mostly obtained from the papers left by Calvin Stebbins and John Bliss, Esqs.

Agriculture. — The first potatoes were brought to town by Dea. Nathaniel Warriner, about 1754, or about twenty-three years after the town was settled. There was but a peck of them. Broom-corn was first raised by Thomas Jones or Joshua Leonard. At a later period, Paul Langdon and Calvin and Sylvanus Stebbins raised it in considerable quantities and manufactured it into brooms. Plaster of Paris, or gypsum, was first brought from West Springfield by Gad Lamb, about 1776. Calvin Stebbins brought the first plough with iron mould-board into town; and, if I mistake not, Daniel Isham used the first cast-iron plough some forty years ago. Hops were cultivated about thirty years ago, by Calvin Steb-

bins. The mulberry fever raged thirty years ago, much to the pecuniary damage of many speculators. Grafted fruit took the place, at about the same time, of the old varieties or cider apples. Flax ceased to be cultivated at the same time. Hemp was raised by a few farmers in the war of 1812.

Piscatory. — It was considered disreputable in early times for farmers to go after shad. They were said by their neighbors to be "out of pork." Hence, persons, going for shad, went in the morning before their neighbors were up, and did not return till they were in bed. Salmon were so abundant, and farmers were so unwilling to take them, that the fishermen required that so many pounds of salmon should be taken for every dozen of shad. About twenty-five years ago bull-heads or horn-pouts made their appearance in the Scantic, and the trout all disappeared, much to the mortification of the anglers. A few years ago the "pout" disappeared, and the "trout" returned. There was a furor ran through the country a few years ago of obtaining pearls from fresh-water clams. Some of respectable size and value were found in the clams in the Scantic.

Buildings.— The first wood-house was built by Oliver Bliss, 1786. Log houses were occupied till nearly 1800.

Conveyances. — Lieut. Paul Langdon brought the first wagon into town. In 1784 there were but two two-horse wagons, and five two-horse sleighs. In 1804 Jesse or Pliny Bliss introduced a one-horse wagon. First buffalo robe brought from Montreal, 1805; cost $5.00.

Inventions. — Lewis Langdon invented a machine for turning cider-mill screws; Walter Burt, shears for cutting the nap of cloth. Edwin Chaffee, a native of this town, invented the use of India-rubber preparations for cloth. Probably this is the most important invention made by any of the natives of the town.

Vermin. — David Chapin brought the first *rat* to the town in a sack of wool from Rhode Island, and permitted it to live. Hence, rats in Wilbraham.

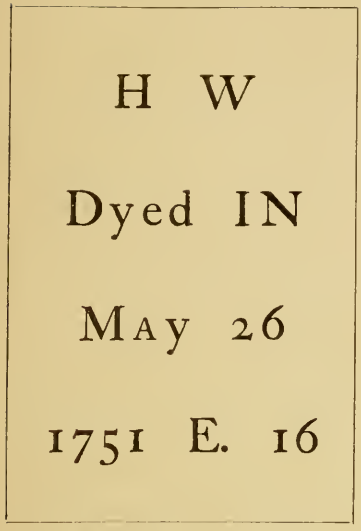
Stock. — Capt. Charles Sessions introduced Merino sheep, and had a large flock. Capt. Joseph Lathrop and sons introduced Saxon sheep, and kept a flock of several hundred. Improvement was not made in cattle till a later date. The breed of swine received earlier attention.

Names of Places, Mountains, Brooks, etc. — The North Village long since outgrew its name of "Sodom;" and the South Parish that of

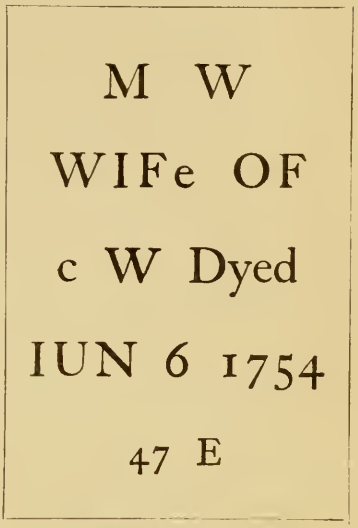
"Pokeham;" and the South Village that of "the city." The Goat Rocks were so called as being the favorite resort of William King's goats, one of which got entangled there, and was found dead. These rocks are a ledge about thirty-feet perpendicular, at the south end of the North Mountains. Rocky Dunder was many years ago the name of the region south of Burt's mill. Pole Bridge Brook was so called from the bridge first built over it; it was also called Beaver Brook, because the beavers had built a dam in it; Twelve-mile Brook, because twelve miles from Springfield; Nine-mile Pond, because nine miles from Springfield; Rattlesnake Peak, because a rattlesnake was killed there; Wigwam Hill, from the Indian squaw's wigwam near it; Stony Hill, because it was stony; Peggy's Dipping Hole, because Peggy, in her desire to attend upon the means of grace furnished at Springfield, ventured, in her pilgrimage thither, to cross some recently-frozen ice, and went through into the water; Steep Pitch, because years ago the turn in the road toward the South Village from the late Col. John McCray's, was *very* steep and narrow.

The Legend of Kibbe's Shirt. — An alarm was once raised in Wilbraham that the Indians were coming. It was on this wise: One Kibbe went into the woods on Sunday, to get his cow, and, not having the fear of either God or the law before his eyes, he took with him his gun in case he should meet any game. Not long after he left home, the report of two guns was heard, and Kibbe came running back in great apparent trepidation, saying that he had been fired at by two Indians, and that there were more lurking in the woods. The whole country was alarmed, and the woods were scoured in search of the "salvages." None were found, nor were any traces of them discovered. Suspicion began to be excited that all was not right with Kibbe. A more particular examination of his shirt was instituted. He declared that he received one shot in his breast, and when he turned to run, another shot took him in his back. Lo, it was even so; a bullet-hole was made through his shirt before; another through his shirt behind. But alas for Kibbe's veracity, not for his comfort, there was no hole into or through his body, where the bullet went! He saw he was caught, and made confession that seeing game, he was tempted to fire; that he at once bethought himself that he was exposed to prosecution for violating the Sabbath, and took off his shirt and fired through it, to make his neighbors believe that the Indians had attacked him. So originated and ended the only alarm of an attack upon Wilbraham.

Epitaphs of some of the Early Settlers.



Hannah Warner, daughter of Samuel Warner, and Mary his wife.



Mary Warner.
"C." is used for S.—Samuel Warner.

Mrs Miriam ye wife
of Mr Ezra Barker.
who Died May 26
1754. Aged 22 years
alſo of her ſtilborn
daughr by her side

Thine Anger turns
our Frame to Dust
By one Offence
to The. Adam and all
his Sons have lost
there Imortality

Here lies the Body
of Mrs Mary Brewer
late wife of Mr Iſaac
Brewer who Died
May ye 20th A.D. 1759.
Aged 43 years & 2
months. they were
married April 22
1736 & lived together
23 years & 1 month

Here lies ye Body of
Mr. Timothy Mirick
son of lieut Thomas
& Mrs Marry Mirrick
1 who died Agut 7th
1761 in ye 23rd year
of his age

He cometh forth like a
flower and is cut down
He fleeth also as a shadow
And comith not

Here Lies the
Body of Deaⁿ,
David Mirick
who Died Novʳ,
ye 30th 1757 in ye 59th
Year of his Age

It if Sown in
diShonour It is
raised in glory.

Bitten by rattlesnake.

Here lies the
Body of Mr
Noah Alvord
he Died Sept ye 1st
1763 in ye 63rd year
of his Age

Death is a Debt that
is natur's Du which
I have Paid & so
must you.

In Memory of
Thankfull
Experience ye
Daughtr of Mr
Moses & Mrs
Hannah Colton
Who Died May
ye 1st 1775 in ye
16 year of
her age.

In Memory of
Mr Moses Coltoⁿ
who Died of the
Small Pox Februa
ry ye 24th A D
1777.
In ye 53 year
of his
Age.

IN MEMORy OF
MR NATHANIEL
BLISS who Died
Nov 5 AD: 1782
in ye 41th year
of his Age

Mark the parfect
man & behold
the upright for
the end of that
man is peace

Here lies the
Body of Lieut
Jesse Warner
who died Fe
bruary ye 20th
AD 1784
In ye 46th year
of his Age

The ſweet Re
membrance of ye
Juſt: Shall flouriſh
tho. they ſleep in
DUST.

ALAS the brittle
clay in ye morn
of life Aged 15 Died
Lois Bliss Dau
ghter of Mr Oli
ver & Mrs KA
thaRine Bliss
August 30th 1786

youth blooming
learn your mortal state
how frail your life
how short ye Date.

In Memory of

Deacon Nathaniel Warriner

who died Jan,ry 10: 1780 In Hiſ 77th year

He diſcharged a variety of important offices with integrity. He held out the arm of charity to the indigent He prized the Goſpel and was not unmindful of the cause of Christ in his dying moments (a generouſ legacy was bequeathed by him for the Support of the ministry and Schools in this town)

He was a lover of peace a friend to Zion his morals unblemished his piety undiſembled. He lived beloved, and died lamented

In hiſ laſt ſickneſs a placid cerenity o'er spread his countenance, his evidences for heaven were clear and satisfactory he bid a cordial welcome to the meſsenger of death and ſweetly fell aſleep in Jeſus

Mark the perfect man and behold the upright
For the end of that man is peace

In memory of
En^{s} Abel Bliſs
who Died Ap^{l} y^{e} 30
A : D 1762 in y^{e} 54th
year of his Age

All go unto one
Place all are of
the dust and all
turn to dust again

Here lies y^{e} Body
of Mr Samuel
Warner who died
at Lebanon Sep^{t} 10
A : D 1787.
in the 75 year
of his age

In memory of
Mr Isaact
Brewer who
died May 19th
AD 1788
in the 75th
year of his
Age

SOUTH PARISH BURYING-GROUND.

The first burial in the grave-yard of the South Parish was Lydia, a child of John Bliss, Esq., March 29, 1755

In Memory
of Mrs Sarah
wife of Mr
John
Langdon
who died July
22d 1755
Aged 21
years.

In Memory
of Mr Stephen
Stebbins
who died
Feb. 26. 1768
in his 57 year.

In memory of
Lt Paul Langdon
who died
Dec. 3rd 1761
In ye 69th Year of
his Age

In Memory of
Mr John Firmin
who departed this life
Janry 21st 1802
In the 89th year
of his age.

Sacred to the memory of

Mr Ezekiel Russel

who died Janry 3d

1802

Aged 80 years.

In Memory of

Mr Isaac Morris

who died

June 2 1805

in the 57 year

of his age.

In Memory of

Mr David Burt

who departed this life

July 6th 1809

in the 73d year

of his age.

In Memory of

Mr Comfort Chaffee

Who Died

June 4th 1811

Aged 74 years

In
Memory of
Capt. Steward Beebe
who died
June 13 1824
Æ. 72.

Rev.
Moses Warren
Died
Feb. 19th 1829
Aged 71

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

BURYING-GROUND AT THE FOUR CORNERS.

The first person buried in the East Burying-Ground was a Shaw. But he had no gravestone, as there were woods there, also a public road passing through.

In Memory of
Mr. Caleb Stebbins
who died
Feb. 22nd, 1796,
Aged 86 years.

In memory of
Caleb Stebbins, jun.
who died
March 28th, 1787,
Aged 46 years.

Dr. Russell's Speech in reply to Dr. Stebbins.

Dr. Russell was sick the day of the celebration, and though able to be at the table was hardly able to speak, and was compelled to leave it once. After I had finished my speech, Dr. Russell could not reply, but wrote out what he would have said, and sent it for publication. When the excess of matter on hand was discovered, I commenced omitting, and as this speech was not delivered, omitted it; but since the town have so generously cheered me onward, I have obtained Dr. Russell's consent to insert it, though out of place.

Mr. President: I did not intend to occupy the attention of this assembly another moment. I rise again, simply to say to you, sir, to these neighbors and fellow-townsmen, and to my able, learned, and eloquent friend, — the orator of the day,— that I take the responsibility to which he has referred. I will not go around, pass by, blink, or shun it in any form. I take it; I take every part and parcel of it. Nay, I take the whole responsibility which he has just told you rests on my shoulders.

And I will say further, sir, I have no alarming apprehensions that our good foster-mother, the town of Wilbraham, will send either my friend the orator or myself to *dance* anywhere within its precincts for our peccadillos.

I think, sir, that any service that he or I might attempt to perform to Terpsichore, or be compelled to perform in honor of that graceful goddess, would not only not draw a smile of approval from any of the "Sacred Nine," but be so essentially ludicrous, that the town will take good care that its soil may never be marked by any such "light, fantastic toes," as ours.

If the powers that be should actually come to any such conclusion as that to which the gentleman has referred, either in respect to himself or to me, I should expect that they would vote that we should be sent to Wigwam Hill, of which we have heard so much to-day, to Rattlesnake Peak, or to Prospect Heights, and that the dancing should all be done at a time when neither sun, nor moon, nor stars for many days had been seen. And I should expect further, sir, after any such performance on our part, that the scene of the dance on the heath in Shakespeare's Macbeth, would be so far outdone that we should always have an engagement when that great tragedy comes on the stage.

But, sir, let all this pass. It so happens that the gentleman and myself have been acquainted in other days. He knows me, and I know him. It may seem surprising to this assembly, for a good many reasons, — yet so it was, — I had the honor of being tutor of his class, during its Sophmore year in college. On my part, sir, it was an honor wholly undeserved, as I am willing to confess and deny not. I heard him, therefore, in Greek and mathematics all that year. In the Lyrics of Pindar, the Tragedies of Sophocles, the Orations of Demosthenes, or the demonstrations of the sections of the cone, he always did in the recitation room, Mr. President, just as he has done before us all to-day. He was never found in the vocative. He was always thorough, manly, clear. He always grasped with a strong hand, and made the most of himself and of everything around him that deserved his attention. He was always *primus inter pares*, as he is to-day in

the religious body with which he stands connected. And further, sir, he was a man of unblemished integrity and honor when a Sophmore in college. The smell of no strange or hazing fire ever passed upon him, or through him upon others, at that period. And if this be not saying all that can be said of any man in commendation, then I shall be compelled to go to school and learn how more can be uttered. I assume, therefore, Mr. President, the responsibility which he has told you, rests upon me. I expect your thanks, sir, and some distinguished memorial from the town of Wilbraham, for the service I have rendered in this matter, instead of being sent to *dance* on Wigwam Hill or Rattlesnake Peak.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Mr. President, to tender to the Committee of Arrangements and Town of Wilbraham my thanks for the honor conferred in designating me as the speaker on this anniversary occasion. In my estimation, Mr. President, they could have bestowed on me no higher mark of their confidence and esteem. I appreciate their kindness and their partiality, and shall ever cherish its memory. I must say, Mr. President, that I never declined a service required at my hands with more hesitation, with more lingering, affectionate regret, than the one to which reference has been made by my friend the orator of the day. Could I have done otherwise, I should not have so done, though it must have marred what have been to us the festivities, the high enjoyments of this occasion.

It is no outsider's business, Mr. President, what things we say here to-day in this family gathering. It is nobody's business but our own, what things my friend the orator shall put into his book of Magnalia or Memorabilia of this now ancient town of Wilbraham. He will have such a book, without any question. And no native-born inhabitant, after its publication, will ever be deemed of age till he shall have read it.

I say, then, Mr. President, and I know that you will agree with me, that there is no such spot on earth as this said town of Wilbraham. If the waters of the Atlantic or of the beautiful Ægean were poured around it, a Greek would believe it, without any question, one of the happy islands of the blessed. As it is, there are in it Elysian Fields. Where does the approaching morn sow the dewy landscape with more sparkling pearls? or the beams of departing day paint the mountain-tops in richer gold? Where, to us, does the sun shine brighter than on these hills and valleys and streams?

Why, sir, the herds and the flocks that pace to and fro in their feeding-grounds, bask in the shade, or drink at the springs, appear to be the veritable descendants of those that listened to Orpheus of old, and make us suppose that the advocates of the modern development theory must have studied all they ever learned of the animal kingdom here. The ponds for swimming, the fish of the streams, the squirrels, the partridges and "*coons*" of the mountains, and the muskrats of the meadows, are better here than anywhere else. Had Æsop lived in Wilbraham, Mr. President, there is but little question that his fox-literature, in the shape of fables, would have been of a much loftier cast, and would have pushed all the quailing urchins in Hampden County, that have been compelled to plod through his quadruped lore, into much more wisdom and sagacity than most of them now possess.

The water-privileges are better here than elsewhere. And of this, the mills and water-wheels and trip-hammers of days that are never to be forgotten, are the proof. Nowhere can Milton and Goldsmith and Thompson, and especially

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that magnificent "Hymn to the Seasons," be so effectually studied, and its power felt, as along these slopes and forests and woodlands. "Spring" paid its earliest and its sweetest visits here. The song of "earliest bird" nowhere poured such music on our ears, and "the glory of the Summer months" has been nowhere so bright and effulgent to our eyes. Nowhere has the "live thunder" leaped, and the tempest poured, in more grandeur and sublimity than along these hills; and nowhere has the "fragrance after showers" been sweeter or more ravishing to our sense. Here brown Autumn has lingered in the lap of the summer-months, and crowned the year with plenty. Winter itself has been grand and majestic as the storm has swept along these mountain-sides and howled through the valleys. And it has been unutterably beautiful when every tree of the forest and of the field has been seen bending under its icy burden, and the rays of an unclouded morning's sun have been broken into all the colors of the bow on the cloud, and poured in tides of sparkling splendor on the vision. To us, Mr. President, "beauty has literally walked forth" here. "The softening air has been balm, and every sense, and every heart has been joy." To us it is all hallowed with the associations of childhood and youth. The schoolmasters are not forgotten. Weld and Bennet and Henry ought to be immortalized to-day, for they have done good in their generation. From their lips the mysteries of Dabol and Pike, in arithmetic, and of Murray, in grammar, have fallen by piecemeals on our ears. They deserve our thanks, as also that leader of the choir, and now a deacon, whose sharp glances were such a terror to those boys who used to sit "up gallery" in those "pen-pews," crack nuts and play "in meeting." There are female teachers, among the living, here, that have won for themselves an enviable renown, and need no commendation from us to stimulate their exertions and perpetuate their high usefulness. They are, and have long been, sir, an ornament to the town, and will never be forgotten by those who scan the influences that give shape and complexion to its history. But, Mr. President, I must take my seat, and leave the orator of the day responsible for this whole train of remarks from me.

There is a beautiful myth the substance of which is, that the Goddess Venus, on a journey, came to the banks of the Cephissus, before Athens, and being weary and faint, — as such celestials must of course have been, — she slaked her thirst at this delicious stream, and then breathed out her sweet breath, which henceforth became the atmosphere of all Attica. Hence the softness and the balm, it is said, of those classic skies.

But something more real and precious than Grecian divinities have breathed this air and looked out upon the prospect that here limits our vision. Your mother and mine, Mr. President, have here lived, here breathed out their prayers, and from these scenes have gone to their rest. Ought not this atmosphere to be to us balm, the ground itself hallowed, where sleeps *such dust*, and every object here to stir us with emotions that shall ennoble and exalt us while we live?

I repeat the declaration, therefore, already made, that I declined the service tendered me with many misgivings, while I knew there were hands more competent than my own to the task. I still tender my thanks to the Committee of Arrangements and the Town for their kind regards, and to the orator of the day for the very able and eloquent manner in which the duty assigned him has been discharged.

Genealogies of the Families of some of the First Settlers of Wilbraham.

I have not obtained all the genealogies I sought for, but such as I have obtained, I give. I do not hold myself responsible for their entire accuracy; but presume that they are as accurate as such tables usually are. I have not been at the labor of reconstructing them on one principle, but have printed them nearly in the manner in which they came into my hands. I think they will be intelligible to those who are interested to study them. The Coltons are nearly all gone. So of the Joneses and the Elys. The Shaws, and Glovers, and Bartletts are all gone, I believe. Nathaniel Bliss's family are all gone; so of the Lyons, and Carpenters, and Woods, and Skinners, and Badgers. Of the thirteen families of Stebbinses, once in the South Parish, there is but one family of the name left having children. The genealogy closes usually when a family leaves town, or a female marries out of the name. The abbreviations will be readily understood: b. born, m. married, d. died.

BEEBE FAMILY.

Lieut. Samuel Beebe came from East Haddam, Ct., to reside in Wilbraham, about the year 1772. He married, but the name of his wife is unknown, and also the time of her death. They had two children, Stewart and Samuel, Jr. Samuel Beebe died October 1, 1786, in the 61st year of his age.

Samuel Beebe, Jr., married, but the maiden name of his wife is unknown. They had one child named Samuel, who was married to Azubah Miner, and removed to Western New York. Samuel Beebe, Jr., died Feb. 15, 1775, in the 23d year of his age. His wife afterwards married Joel Stebbins. She died Jan. 22, 1809, in the 60th year of her age.

Stewart Beebe, son of Samuel Beebe, was born in East Haddam, Ct., and removed with his father to Wilbraham. He was married, April 13, 1775, to Hannah Butler. They had one child, named Margaret, who died in infancy. Hannah, wife of Stewart Beebe, died Dec. 18, 1776, aged 26 years. Jan. 14, 1779, he was again married to Huldah Beebe, of Lyme, Ct. They had eight children: Stewart, Hannah, Margaret, Walter, Huldah, Rhoda (who died in infancy), Rhoda, and Samuel. Huldah, wife of Stewart Beebe, died Oct. 14, 1803, in the 45th year of her age. He was afterwards married to Dorothy Colton, of Springfield. In the year 1792, he received a captain's commission from John Hancock, at that time governor of Massachusetts. Stewart Beebe died June 13, 1825, aged 72 years. He was a man of influence in the town and held many important offices. Dorothy, his wife, died June 1, 1843, aged 81 years.

Stewart Beebe, son of Stewart Beebe, graduated at Williams College in the year 1803. He married Sophia Gilbert, of Hebron, Ct. They had five children: Junius, Lucius, Marcus, Decius, and Cyrus. Stewart Beebe died Oct. 7, 1851, aged 72. Sophia, his wife, died Sept. 26, 1855, aged 76.

Junius Beebe, son of Stewart Beebe, married Jane Phillips, of Wheeling, Va. He was killed by an accident on the Mississippi River, Dec. 13, 1850, aged 41 years.

Lucius Beebe, son of Stewart Beebe, married Sylenda Morris, of Wilbraham.

Marcus Beebe, son of Stewart Beebe, married Maria Walker, of Woodstock, Ct. They have had seven children: Junius, Lucinda M., Lucy J., Susan S., Mary S., Emma O., (who died March 28, 1857, aged three years and six months), and Marcus.

Decius Beebe, son of Stewart Beebe, married Lucinda Lane, of Charlestown, N. J. They had four children: Maria L., Phebe C., Cyrus, and Decius. Lucinda, wife of Decius Beebe, died May 25, 1855, aged 36.

Cyrus Beebe, son of Stewart Beebe, died in the year 1843, in the 26th year of his age.

Hannah, daughter of Stewart Beebe, married Jared Cone, of Wilbraham. They removed to Ohio, where she died.

Margaret, daughter of Stewart Beebe, married Martin Richardson, of Otsego, Ohio. She died in the year 1855, aged 72.

Walter Beebe, son of Stewart Beebe, graduated at Williams College in the year 1810. He married Mary McHollum, of Lancaster, Penn. Walter Beebe died at Cadiz, Ohio, Jan. 24, 1836, aged 50.

Rhoda, daughter of Stewart Beebe, married William Shatwell, of Cadiz, Ohio.

Huldah, daughter of Stewart Beebe, died Nov. 18, 1843, aged 55.

Samuel Beebe, son of Stewart Beebe, was married Dec. 3, 1818, to Eunice McCray, of Bolton, Ct. They have had nine children: Eleazer S., John S., Richard S., Sarah, Albert S., and Elizabeth, and three who died in infancy.

Eleazer S., son of Samuel Beebe, married Harriet S. Force, of Hebron, Ct.

John S., son of Samuel Beebe, married Ellen M. Dickerman, of Westfield, Mass. They have had five children: Eunice M., John D. (who died in infancy), Samuel D., Ellen M., and Charles H.

Richard S., son of Samuel Beebe, married Mary P. Salisbury, of Stafford, Ct.

BREWER FAMILY.

(1) Isaac Brewer was the fourth son of Rev. Daniel Brewer, and Katharine (Chauncey). He was b. in Springfield, Nov. 25, 1713, and m. Mary Bliss (dr. of Ebenezer and Mary Bliss, of Springfield), April 22, 1736; they settled in Wilbraham; he was a farmer; had seven children; d. May 9, 1788. His wife d. May 30, 1759. Mr. Brewer m. a second wife, who survived him, but who removed to Simsbury, Ct., and d. there. Their children were, —

(2) Mary, b. 1737, m. Jermiah Snow, and lived in Northampton; (2) Katharine, b. June 8, 1738, m. Oliver Bliss, of Wilbraham, March 8, 1759; (2) Eunice, b. April 20, 1740, m. Joseph Stebbins, of Springfield; (2) Isaac, b. Aug. 17, 1742, m. Sybil Miller, of Ludlow, and settled there, was a farmer; (2) William, b. Nov. 8, 1744; (2) Charles, b. Dec. 18, 1748, O. S.; (2) Gains, b. Aug. 28, 1753.

(2) *William*, son of Isaac and Mary Brewer, m. Mercy Ely. Their children were, —

(3) Mercy, b. April 20, 1775, m. David Hitchcock, of Wilbraham; (3) William, b. July 14, 1777, d. April 6, 1851; (3) Luke, b. Aug. 7, 1779, d. Nov. 4, 1849; (3) Luther, b. May 7, 1782; (3) Timothy, b. July 12, 1784; d. Jan. 10, 1863; (3) Eunice, b. Dec. 31, 1787, m. John Morgan, of Wilbraham, and settled in Vt. Mercy, the mother, d. Oct. 4, 1802, and the father m. Jemima Boltwood, of Amherst. They had one son, —

Solomon, b. 1809, d. March 14, 1814. Jemima, the mother, d. July 29, 1850.

(2) *Charles*, the son of Isaac and Mary Brewer, m. Anna Chatterton, of New Haven. He was a cabinet-maker and lived most of his life in Wilbraham. He d. Dec. 23, 1836, aged 88. Anna, his wife, d. June 30, 1832, aged 78. Their children were, —

(3) Charles, b. Jan. 23, 1775; d. Sept. 28, 1853; (3) Samuel, b. April 2, 1777, m. Lois Bliss, of Wilbraham, d. Oct. 1, 1862; (3) Anson, Oct. 17, 1779, d. from the bite of a mad fox, Oct. 1, 1796; (3) Hannah, b. March 17, 1782, m. John Merrick, Dec. 17, 1804; (3) Anna, b. Jan. 15, 1784; m. Thomas Merrick, Jan., 1807, d. Oct. 6, 1847; (3) Calvin, b. Feb. 16, 1787, m. Flavia Phelps, of Windsor, May 25, 1820; (3) Susan, b. Jan. 1790, m. Capt. David Thomas, b. March 10, 1834, and settled in Louisiana; (3) Daniel, b. Oct., 1792, m. Emma S. Whitmore, Dec. 31, 1820, and settled in Baltimore, d. Jan. 13, 1841; (3) Anson Lorenzo, b. Feb. 22, 1800, m. 1st, Harriet Dunbar, 2d, Sarah A. Endley, settled in New Lisbon, Ohio.

(2) *Gaius*, son of Isaac and Mary Brewer, m. Lucretia Babcock, Jan. 21, 1778. He was a blacksmith, and lived in Wilbraham; d. Dec. 7, 1843. She d. Oct. 19, 1829. Their children were, —

(3) Lucretia, b. Oct. 26, 1778, m. Elisha B. Boltwood, of Amherst; (3) John, b. Feb. 23, 1780, m. Emily Vose, of Boston, was a blacksmith, and lived in Wilbraham, d. March 12, 1860; (3) Nancy, b. Nov. 7, 1781, m. Charles Moody, of South Hadley; she d. Oct. 8, 1855; (3) Sarah, b. July 9, 1783, m. Capt. Enos Battles, of Granby, d. June 29, 1854; (3) Henry, b. Aug. 22, 1785, d. Oct. 11, 1832; (3) Lucinda, b. July 21, 1787, m. Mr. Crane, of Dalton, a paper-manufacturer; (3) Mary, b. Oct. 17, 1789, m. Oliver Colt, of Hinsdale; (3) Andrew, b. June 25, 1792; (3) James, b. ——, m. Eliza Beals, of Boston.

(3) *William*, son of William and Mercy Brewer, m. Jemima Bliss, Jan. 4, 1803. Jemima, the mother, d. July 5, 1854. Their children were, —

(4) Belinda Cordelia, b. Aug. 5, 1805, m. Abraham Avery, Sen., of Wilbraham, May 6, 1852; (4) William Ely, b. March 4, 1807; (4) Eloisa F., b. March 26, 1809, m. Perry Goodell, April 30, 1847; (4) Elizabeth Bartlett, b. June 3, 1811, m. John B. Rice, of Weymouth; (4) Henry Bridgman, b. July 7, 1813; (4) Edwin Bliss, b. April 11, 1815; (4) Sarah Stebbins, b. Aug. 11, 1817, and lives in Wilbraham; (4) Moses Knowlton, b. Oct. 17, 1819; (4) Jemima Boltwood, b. Dec. 8, 1823, m. Samuel Ward, and lives in Cambridge, Mass.

(3) *Luke*, son of William and Mercy Brewer, m. Mary Bliss, of Wilbraham; 2d wife, Miss Hall. He removed to Ohio, and d. Their children were, —

(4) Maria, b, Oct. 15, 1803, m. Jesse Bishop, and lives in Springfield; (4) Permelia, b. July 23, 1805, d. ——; Mary, b. ——, m. Kendall, and lives in Springfield; (4) Francis, b. ——, m. ——, settled in Ohio; (4) Louisa, b. ——; (4) Edward P., b. April 8, 1819; (4) Lucy, b. ——.

(3) *Luther*, son of William and Mercy Brewer, m. Laura Merrick, of Wilbraham. He was a physician, and practised medicine in Wilbraham, some years and afterwards gave his attention to farming. Their children were, —

(4) Luther Lycortas, b. Oct. 26, 1816, practised medicine in Baton Rouge, La., d. June 23, 1845, at Wilbraham; (4) Ajalon, b. Feb. 4, 1819, a student of medicine, d. Dec. 18, 1846; (4) James Merrick, b. March 24, 1821; (4) Emelius, b. May 6, 1823, editor, and practised law at Port Gibson, La., d. April 6, 1855; (4) Myron, b. April 23, 1825, m. Laura Luce Oct. 15, 1862; (4) Mary Cornelia, b. May 19, 1829, m. Daniel Herbert, of New Jersey, and resides there; (4) Josephine, b. Dec. 30, 1831, m. Gideon K. Gilbert, of New Haven, Ct., Sept. 26, 1855, and removed to Minnesota.

(3) *Timothy*, son of William and Mercy Brewer, m. Mary Fuller, of Wilbraham. Their children were, —

(4) Isaac, b. Nov. 21, 1809; (4) Sophia Fuller, b. Sept. 11, 1812, m. Joseph G. Eustice, July 22, 1855, and lives in Wilbraham; (4) Timothy Brainard, b. April 2, 1815, d. Nov. 28, 1861; (4) Solomon B., b. May 29, 1817; (4) Amos, b. March 18, 1819, m. —— Smith, and settled in Sheffield. Timothy, the father, d. Jan. 10, 1863.

(3) *Charles*, son of Charles and Anna Brewer, m. Dorcas Smith, of So. Hadley. Their children were, —

(4) Charles Franklin, b. July 23, 1806, d. in Palmer, ——; (4) Catharine Chauncy, b. Dec. 29, 1810, m. Thomas N. Harding, of Southbridge, Dec. 25, 1834; where they reside; (4) Charles Chatterton, b. ——, d. ——; (4) Dorcas Sophia, b. April 29, 1816, resides in Abington; (4) Harriet Ann Susan, b. Sept. 9, 1818, m. Benjamin Sherman, and lives in Abington. Dorcas, the mother, d. Oct. 2, 1822. Charles, the father, m. for his 2d wife, Frances Rice, of Granby, Ct. Their children were, —

(4) Anson Chatterton, b. May 22, 1826; (4) Hiram Marshall, b. March 25, 1829; (4) Frances Cornelia, b. Jan. 10, 1831, d. ——; (4) Daniel Delos, b. March 22, 1833, m. and lives in Minnesota; (4) Julia J., b. Jan. 28, 1835, m. William Bidwell, and lives in Collinsville, Ct.; (4) Wilbur Fisk, b. May 3, 1838, m. Carrie Coomes, of Longmeadow, June 5, 1862, and live in Springfield.

(3) *Calvin*, son of Charles and Anna Brewer, m. Flavia Phelps, of Windsor, Ct., May 25, 1820. Their children were, —

(4) Daniel Lorenzo, b. Jan. 9, 1822, m. Louisa McDaniel June 29, 1848, and settled in

Louisiana, was a lawyer, and was killed on board the Princess, by an explosion, Feb. 27, 1850; (4) Flavia Ann, b. April, 1823, d. in La., ———. Flavia, the mother, d. May 17, 1823. The father m. 2d, Mary Case, of Coventry, Ct., June 1, 1825. Their children were, —

(4) Harriet C. M., b. Nov. 6, 1827, m. Joseph Newell, of Mississippi, March, 1847; (4) Mary Jennett, b. Feb. 11, 1830, m. William H. Porter, of New Orleans, d. April 9, 1858; (4) Samuel George, b. April 17, 1832, d. Feb. 14, 1843.

(3) *Henry*, son of Gaius and Lucretia, m. Louisa Burt, of Longmeadow. He d. Oct. 11, 1832. She d. Dec. 17, 1856. Their children were, —

(4) Lydia Hall, b. Aug., 1812, m. Dr. Edwin N. Colt, 1832, lives in Brooklyn, N. Y.; (4) Mary Swift, b. 1814, m. Samuel D. Cooley, of Palmer, 1839, d. 1840; (4) Henry Burt, b. 1818.

(3) *Andrew*, son of Gaius and Lucretia Brewer, m. Lucinda Chapin, Feb. 22, 1819. Their children were, —

(4) Lucinda A., b. Jan. 27, 1820, m. Samuel D. Cooley, of Palmer, Jan. 27, 1840; (4) Eliza, b. March 12, 1822, m. Hiram B. Abbe, of Enfield, d. May 24, 1840; (4) Dwight Andrew, b. Sept. 4, 1827. The mother d. July 8, 1827. Andrew m. 2d, Martha Woodward. Their child was, —

(4) Martha E., b Aug. 28, 1838, m. Myron A. Bliss, July 4, 1859.

(4) *William Ely Brewer*, son of William and Jemima, m. Mrs. Eliza T. Norris, 1840. Their children were, —

(5) Emerson G., b. Dec. 7, 1841; (5) Julia H., b, June 25, 1843, m. George W. Clement. Dec. 9, 1862, live in Willoughby, Ohio; (5) William L., b. Oct. 19, 1849; (5) Francis H., July 11, 1849.

(4) *Henry Bridgman*, son of William and Jemima Brewer, m. Lucretia L. Giddings. Their children were, —

(5) Susan J., b. May 8, 1842, m. Flavel Benton, Feb. 24, 1863, and lives in Wilbraham; (5) Walter G., b. Aug. 4, 1843, soldier 37th Reg. Mass. Vols.; (5) George G. b. Nov. 28, 1847; (5) Herbert W., b. March 27, 1850. Lucretia S., the mother, d. Dec. 25, 1853. H. Bridgman, then m. Mary A. Butchers, Aug. 31, 1854. Their children were, —

(5) Charles B., b. March 8, 1856; (5) Laura Lucretia, b. Nov. 4, 1857; (5) Mary, b. March 27, 1861. The family removed to Pelham, Mass.

(4) *Edwin Bliss*, son of William and Jemima, m. Eliza Spencer, of Middletown, Ct., 1847. Their children were, —

(5) Addison Spencer, b. Jan. 6, 1849, d. Aug. 23, 1852; Francis Caroline, b. Nov. 27, 1851; (5) Edwin Avery, b. Oct. 3, 1853; (5) Mary Ellen, b. Oct. 7, 1855; (5) Frederick Gridley, b. Oct. 27, 1859, d. Sept. 26, 1861; (5) Emma Palmer, b. July 17, 1863.

(4) *James Merrick*, son of Luther and Laura Brewer, m. Eliza Gilbert, Sept. 9, 1847. Their children were, —

(5) Anna Gilbert, b. Jan. 23, 1851; (5) James. b. Feb. 17, 1854, d. April 6, 1854.

(4) *Isaac*, son of Timothy and Mary Brewer, m. Lydia Loveland. Their child was, —

(5) Martha S., b. Dec., 1842, m. William H. Day Nov., 1862.

(4) *Timothy Brainard*, son of Timothy and Mary Brewer, m. Mary A. Lawton, of Hardwick, Sept., 1844. Their child was, —

(5) Mary Fuller, b. Aug. 11, 1855.

(4) *Solomon B.*, son of Timothy and Mary Brewer, m, Mary Jane Olds, Nov. 18, 1852. Their children were, —

(5) Amos D., b. Jan. 13, 1854; (5) Brainard M., b. Nov. 30, 1857; (5) Lillian J., b. May 3, 1860; (5) Prudence O., b Feb. 21, 1862.

(4) *Charles Franklin*, son of Charles and Dorcas Brewer, m. Diantha Hunt. Their children were, —

(5) Amanda Melissa, b. June 1, 1831; (5) George Monroe, b. Oct. 13, 1832. They removed to Palmer, where the father d.

(4) *Anson*, son of Charles and Frances Brewer, m. 1st, Clarinda Chaffee; 2d wife, Marietta Cady, June, 1855. Their children were, —

(5) Charles Anson, b. Aug. 17, 1856; (5) Oscar Cady, June 9, 1858.

(4) *Hiram M.*, son of Charles and Frances Brewer, m. Mary Staunton. Their child was,—

(5) Mary Staunton, b. May 22, 1859, d. Jan., 1863. The mother d. May, 1859. The father m. 2d wife, Ellen F. Lawton, May 13, 1860. Their child was, —

(5) Ella, b. Sept. 26, 1861.

(4) *Henry Burt*, son of Henry and Louisa Brewer, m. Mrs. Anna Colt. Their child was, —

(5) Edward Henry, b. Dec. 12, 1851.

Dwight Andrew, son of Andrew and Lucinda Brewer, m. Elmira Turner. Their children were, —

(5) Alfred Dwight, b. Nov. 18, 1857; (5) Charles Arthur, b. Jan. 21, 1860; (5) Emma Louisa, b. July 5, 1862.

BLISS (ABEL) FAMILY.

Thomas Bliss came from England; m. Margaret ——; had a son Samuel, who m. Mary Leonard, Nov. 10, 1665. Samuel had a son, Thomas, b. Feb. 8, 1688, who had a son, Abel, b. 1706; m. Jemima Chapin, Jan. 16, 1736. This Abel was the renowned

Ensign Abel Bliss, who, as tradition says, "did carry six bushels of salt on his back all at one time." His children were, —

Oliver, b. Nov. 20, 1736; Abel, b. Oct. 16, 1738; Jemima, b. Nov. 12, 1740, m. Capt. L. Allis; Silas, b. Nov. 15, 1743; Levi, b. April 29, 1745.

Oliver Bliss m. Catharine Brewer March 8, 1759. Their children were, —

Achsah, b. March 13, 1760, m. Rev. Henry Ely, of Wilbraham; Mary, b. Feb. 4, 1762, m. Rev. Joel Hayes; Catharine, b. April 24, 1764, d. Oct., 1792; Jemima, b. July 9, 1766, d. Jan., 1774; Eunice, b. Feb. 5, 1769, m. Rev. Richard Ely, of Saybrook, Ct.; Lois, b. March 20, 1771, d. Aug. 20, 1786; Oliver, b. Nov. 11, 1773, d. Sept. 19, 1824; Pliny, b. Nov. 16, 1776; John, b. Aug. 9, 1779.

Abel Bliss, b. Oct. 16, 1738, d. Nov. 23, 1821; Elizabeth Bartlett, his wife, b. Feb., 1744, d. March 8, 1788; were m. Sept. 28, 1769. Their children were, —

Roxy, b. Jan. 21, 1772, d. April 12, 1844; Judah, b. March, 1773, d. July 4, 1775; Abel, b. May 24, 1775, d. Jan. 15, 1853; Judah, b. Jan. 14, 1777, d. Nov. 30, 1845; Jemima, b. March 16, 1779, d. ——; Lois, b. Sept. 20, 1781, d. ——; Moses Bridgman, b. Aug. 28, 1783, d. 1783, and Miriam Phelps, b. Aug. 28, 1783, d. 1783, were twins; Elizabeth, b. Jan. 29, 1788, d. Dec. 27, 1851.

Abel Bliss, son of Abel and Elizabeth Bliss, m. Phebe Lathrop, of Norwich, Ct., Oct. 21, 1801. Their children were, —

Mary Battis, b. Aug. 22, 1802, d. Sept. 27, 1805; Laurins Lathrop, b. Nov. 20, 1803, d. Sept. 22, 1805; Nancy, b. Sept. 4, 1805, d. Oct. 3, 1855; John Wesley, b. Sept. 25, 1807; Abel, b. Feb. 9, 1810; George, b. April, 1812; Harriet, b. Nov. 5, 1713; William Lathrop, b. March 25, 1816, d. March 2, 1850; Moses Bridgman, b. March 8, 1818; George Hyde, b. April 27, 1820.

Nancy Bliss, dr. of Abel and Phebe Bliss, m. Rev. Wm. Smith, of Canada. Their children were, —

Wm. Augustus; Julia, d. in infancy; Charles Edward. Nancy Bliss m. Dr. Jesse W. Rice for 2d husband.

John Wesley Bliss, son of Abel and Phebe Bliss, m. Mary Ann Langdon, Nov. 20, 1834. Their child was, —

Sarah Hall, b. April 29, 1839.

Abel Bliss, son of Abel and Phebe Bliss, m. Lucinda Blake, of Springfield, May 6, 1841. Their children were, —

Mary Blake; Wm. Smith; H. Maria; Ellen J.; Josephine; Abel; Allice.

Wm. Lathrop, son of Abel and Phebe Bliss, m. Jane E. Barnett, of Westville, Ct. Their child d. in infancy.

Moses Bridgman Bliss, son of Abel and Phebe Bliss, m. Martha Jane Fuller, of Pittston, Me. Their children were, —

Charles; Wilbur; Frederick; Nellie Jane.

George Hyde Bliss, son of Abel and Phebe Bliss, m. Louisa Coe, of Middlefield, Ct. Their children were, —

Emma Louisa; Selina Coe. Geo. H. Bliss m. for 2d wife, Mary Patrick, of Granby, Mass. Their children were, —

Fanny L.; Maria; Mary Ann; Ella Simpson.

Silas Bliss, son of Ensign Abel and Jemima Bliss, m. Miriam Bliss, of Springfield, 1769, and removed to Cazenovia, N. Y., 1802. They had ten children.

Levi Bliss, son of Ensign Abel and Jemima Bliss, m. Martha Miller, of Springfield, Dec. 22, 1768. Their children were, —

Gaius, b. Oct. 20, 1769, d. Aug. 3, 1786; Gordon, b. Feb. 8, 1771, drowned, April 29, 1799; Levi, b. Dec. 2, 1772; Patty, b. March 12, 1775, m. Noah Saxton; Leonard, b. June 21, 1777, drowned April 29, 1799; Catharine, b. July 10, 1779, m. Stephen Jones; Lucretia, b. Jan. 24, 1781, m. James Morgan; Asenath, b. —— 18, 1783, drowned April 29, 1799; Lovina, b. Sept. 12, 1785, m. Stephen Work; Harriet, b. Feb. 8, 1790; d. July 23, 1818.

Pliny Bliss, son of Oliver and Catharine Bliss, m. Rhoda Jennison, of Walpole, N. H., June, 1812, and removed to Cincinnati, Sept., 1815. He d. March 3, 1854.*

John Bliss, son of Oliver and Catharine Bliss, m. Mrs. Harriet B. Merrick, April 13, 1817. Their child was: —

Catharine Mary Ann Antoinette, b. April 13, 1818, m. Rev. S. W. Speer, D. D., Natches, Miss.

Levi Bliss, son of Levi and Martha Bliss, m. Statira Shepherd, March 17, 1810. Their children were: —

Levi R., b. Feb. 10, 1811; Lorenzo, b. Dec. 22, 1844; Robert B. W., b. May 20, 1820; Martha Miller, b. ——, m. E. W. Reed.

Levi R. Bliss, son of Levi and Statira Bliss, m. Sarah E. Perry, Dec. 16, 1840. Their children were: —

Maria E., b. Nov. 21, 1841; Mary L., b. July 6, 1843; George L. R., b. March 5, 1845; Sarah J., b. Dec. 24, 1846, d. Aug. 12, 1848.

Lorenzo Bliss, son of Levi and Statira Bliss, m. Clarissa W. Miller, Sept. 10, 1837. Their children were: —

Clarissa Miller, b. March 25, 1838; Henry H., b. March 24, 1840; Nancy Henrietta H., b. March 19, 1842, d. ——; Ellen R., b. Oct. 15, 1844; Lorenzo Edward, b. May 31, 1847; Joseph M., b. March 5, 1850.

Robt. B. W. Bliss, son of Levi and Statira Bliss, m. Rowena Colton. Their children were: Amelia R., b. Nov. 24, 1844; Myron R., b. Sept 4, 1846; Josephine E., b. Sept. 11, 1848; Andrew, b. June 13, 1850.

BURT FAMILY.

Henry Burt, the ancestor of the Burts, was deacon in the first church in Springfield. His grandson's name was Moses, who settled in Wilbraham. He had a son named Moses. All the children of this last Moses died childless, except Moses Burt, who now lives at an advanced age, in Springfield, and one sister of his.

Moses Burt's family consisted of six sons and two daughters. Four of the sons died before marriage. Two sons only remain. But one of them has children, — one son and two daughters.

THE CHAPIN (ABNER) FAMILY.

Dea. Samuel Chapin, the head of all the Chapins, hereabout, at least, came, as is supposed by some, from Wales. He took the freeman's oath in Boston, June 2, 1641, and removed to Springfield in 1642. The name of his wife was Cisily. The name of their second son was Henry, who m., Dec. 6, 1664, Bethia Cooley, of Longmeadow. They had a son, Henry, b. March 19, 1679; m. second wife, Esther Bliss, May 10, 1716. They had a son, Abner, b. July 25, 1722. This is the man who settled on the south bank of the Scantic, about 1748. He m., Dec. 23, 1742, Abigail Warner; and a second wife, Tabitha Allen, Feb. or March, 1781. Their children were: —

* Pliny Bliss was an enterprising man, and was noted as a pioneer in navigating the western waters. He established the first steam-ferry at Cincinnati.

Abner, b. May 29, 1749, d. April 1, 1814; Abigail, b. May 14, 1751, m. John Langdon; Esther, b. Dec. 7, 1753, m. Timothy Brown; Margaret, b. Sept. 14, 1755, m. Stephen Davis; Lucy, b. Aug. 19, 1757, m. Asa Bullard; Maria, b. June 7, 1760, m. Abner Cooley; Samuel, b. June 30, 1762, d. April 14, 1837; Timothy, b. March 5, 1764, d. Oct. 5, 1846; Asenath, b. Dec. 6, 1782, m. Crocker Waterhouse.

Abner, son of Abner and Abigail, m. Rhoda Kibbe. Their children were: —

Abner, b. Jan. 12, 1771, m. Polly Adams, May 30, 1795; Amariah, b. Jan. 11, 1773, m. Lovina Geluton; Oliver, b. Dec. 8, 1774, d. Oct., 1776; Rhoda, b. Oct. 8, 1776, m. Elijah P. Russell; Diadema, b. Sept. 4, 1778, m. Zeno King; Beulah, b. Feb. 26, 1785, m. Uriel Cone; Daniel Shays (!!), b. Jan. 27, 1787, m. Marinda Hill; Mary, b. April 7, 1789, m. Cyrus Crane.

Samuel Chapin, son of Abner and Abigail, m. (1) Huldah Wright, (2) Susannah Butts, Oct. 11, 1806. Huldah, d. June 11, 1806; Susannah, d. Nov. 4, 1859, aged 78. Children by 1st wife: —

Mahala, b. Nov. 26, 1793, m. Amisa Switzer, d. May 22, 1851; Maria, b. Nov. 5, 1795, m. Harvey B. Pease; Ralph, b. March 27, 1798, d. March 12, 1801; Samuel, b. June 25, 1800, m. Sally Butts.

Children by 2d wife: —

Ralph Sumner, b. Oct. 13, 1807; Warner Butts, b. Nov. 7, 1810, d. Oct., 1836; Susan, b. Nov. 13, 1811, d. Sept. 12, 1828; Nathaniel M., b. Feb. 26, 1814; Silas Whitman, b. July 11, 1818; Huldah Wright, b. Oct. 3, 1820, d. ——.

Abner Chapin, son of Abner and Rhoda, m. May 30, 1795. Polly Adams. She died Jan. 10, 1841. Their children were: —

Polly, d. March 15, 1823; Lucy Edson, b. March 29, 1798; Minerva; Caroline; Austin; Oliver; Lavinia; Leander Z. and Lucinda, twins, b. Aug. 25, 1809; David and Vashni, twins, b. April 17, 1812; Munro, b. March 11, 1815; Charlotte, b. Sept. 9, 1821.

Samuel Chapin, son of Samuel and Huldah, m. Sally Butts, of Canterbury, Ct. He d. Aug., 1836. Their children were: —

Abigail Dyer, b. Oct. 10, 1827, m. Henry B. Sawyer; David Butts, b. Oct. 10, 1827, m. Jane C. Couse; one child, Mary Emily, b. Sept. 22, 1857; Carlos, b. Dec. 14, 1832.

Ralph Sumner Chapin, son of Samuel and (2) Susannah, m., Jan. 31, 1840, (1) Harriet Newell Cady, b. July 6, 1814; m. Jan. 30, 1855, (2) Sophia Louisa Storrs. Harriet, d. Nov. 28, 1850. Their children were: —

Samuel, b. Jan. 31, 1841; Ellen Augusta, b. April 4, 1844; Henry W., b. Oct. 28, 1846, d. Oct. 28, 1851; Willis, b. April 12, 1848, d. Sept. 16, 1851; Arthur, b. April 15, 1850, d. Sept. 18, 1850.

Nathaniel Mason Chapin, son of Samuel and Susannah, m. Nov. 7, 1837, Maria Shepherd. Their children were: —

Susan M., b. Feb. 19, 1838, m. Emery Stanton; Warner, b. Dec. 1, 1840; Sidney P., b. March 20, 1844; Charles D., b. March 13, 1846; Francis M., b. May 4, 1848, d. April 30, 1859; Mary, b. Jan. 24, 1851; George H., b. Jan. 22, 1853, d. May 21, 1858; Willis K., b. Feb. 14, 1855, d. Sept. 26, 1855; Julia C., b. Aug. 7, 1856; Nellie, b. Dec. 8, 1859.

HENDRICK FAMILY.

Jabez Hendrick was son of Israel Hendrick, of Union, Conn., and settled in Wilbraham in or about the year 1749, on the farm now owned by Hiram Hendrick. His family consisted of nine children, four sons and five daughters. Their names were Abijah, Daniel, Reuben, Pliny, Anna, Lucy, Lydia, Dolly, Lois. None of them are now living, and but two of his grandchildren are now living in town. Hiram Hendrick and Edmund T. Hendrick, sons of Reuben Hendrick, and one great-grandchild, Horton H. Hendrick, son of Hiram Hendrick, and one child of the fourth generation, Adeline Louisa, daughter of Horton H. Hendrick, are all the descendants now living in town.

HITCHCOCK FAMILY.

Nathaniel Hitchcock, the first settler, married, March 28, 1730, Hannah Taylor, of Hadley. Their children were: —

Nathaniel, b. ——; Mercy, b. June 30, 1735, d. Nov. 13, 1755; Gideon, b. Nov. 25, 1736; Silas, b. Oct. 6, 1739.

Nathaniel Hitchcock, Jr., son of Nathaniel Hitchcock, married Sarah ——, and removed to Springfield before 1767. Their children were: —

Nathaniel, b. June 15, 1756; Mary, b. Oct. 24, 1757; Sarah, b. Feb. 5, 1759; Daniel S., b. Jan. 29, 1761; Lucy, b. May 27, 1763.

Silas Hitchcock, son of Nathaniel Hitchcock, married (1) Martha ——, (2) Mary Taylor, 1767. Their children were: —

Martha, b. May 28, 1761; Chloe, b. Nov. 9, 1763; (2 wife), Philena, b. Sept. 23, 1768, d. Dec. 18, ——; Justin, b. Oct. 23, 1769; Philena, b. Aug. 27, 1771; Roxa, b. Oct. 26, 1773; Zera, b. May 25, 1776. Left town at this time, I suppose.

John Hitchcock, 3d, b. April 21, 1722, married Thankful Burt May, 1743; both admitted to the church, by letter from Springfield, Nov. 18, 1744.

Lieut. Hitchcock was an athlete as well as a deacon and lieutenant. Had he lived in Greece, he would have taken the highest prizes at the Olympic and Isthmian games. He was a man of prodigious muscular strength, agility, and endurance. A man stopped by the field where he was at work, and boasted of the speed of the horse he was riding. The deacon told him that he could go to Springfield quicker than the horse. The man resolutely denied it. The deacon gave a challenge. It was accepted, and the deacon won, — ran ten miles, beating the horse. He would lift a load of hay, — such loads as were drawn then, — by getting under the axle-tree of the cart, and taking it on his shoulders in a stooping posture. He would turn a cart over by taking one end of the axle-tree with *one* hand. When he was seventy years old, he came in to dinner, and, as usual, hung his hat on its nail on the summer. He said to his wife, "I am seventy years old to-day; you remember that when we were first married I used to amuse you by taking my hat down with my toes. I wonder if I could do it now?" He sprang from the floor, caught the hat off with his toes, struck on his feet like a cat, hung up his hat again, turned to the table, asked a blessing, and feasted. He had *double teeth* in front. When he loaded grain in a cart, he would seize a bag with his teeth, and, giveing it a swing, throw it into the cart with the aid of a push with his knee. He would hold a tenpenny nail in his teeth and break it off with his fingers. When he died all his teeth were sound. He said jocosely that he did not know a man he could not *whip* or *run away from!* He was the first deacon of the South Parish Church. His children were: —

Othniel, b. Aug. 10, 1744; John, Jan. 4, 1746; Azuba, Aug. 6, 1748; Reuben, May 1, 1751; Moses, March 19, 1753; Aaron, Sept. 1, 1756; Phebe, March 16, 1760; Simeon, Sept. 23, 1761; Thankful, Oct. 13, 1765.

Othniel Hitchcock, son of John Hitchcock, 3d, married Martha Kellog, 1766; she died Oct. 9, 1768, and he married for his second wife Sybel Brooks, 1772. Their child was: — David, b. Nov. 6, 1768.

John Hitchcock, Jr., son of John Hitchcock, 3d, married Martha ——. Their child was: — John, b. Oct. 29, 1769.

Reuben Hitchcock, son of John Hitchcock, 3d, married Hannah ——. Their children were: —

A child, b. Feb. 8, 1774; Martin, b. Nov. 26, 1774; John, b. March 17, 1779; Polly, b. ——; Eleazer, b. Feb. 3, 1782.

Aaron Hitchcock, son of John Hitchcock, 3d, married March, 1780, Desire Maxwell. Their children were: —

Ithamar, b. May 10, 1781; Phebe, b. Aug. 31, 1783; Aaron; Sally.

Ithamer Hitchcock, son of Aaron and Desire, married —— ——. Their children were: — Sophia, m. Noah G. Stebbins; George; Sophronia; Walter; Levi; Mary.

LANGDON FAMILY.

Lieut. Paul Langdon, the head of the Wilbraham Langdons, was the seventh child, and fifth son of Philip Langdon, of Boston, a mariner. There is now in the possession of John Wilson Langdon, his great-great-grandson, an oak chest, which has every ap-

pearance of having been Philip's sea-chest. Lieut. Langdon was a man of great energy of character, a carpenter, a millwright, and a farmer. I have before me an account-book of his, which is also a journal. One entry is as follows: "1745. What wheat has been thrached and yoused and sold this being a memorandum of Wheat Reased in ye year 1745 of my nue field [in Wilbraham] 102 1-2 bushels."

Lieut. Paul Langdon, b. Sept. 12, 1693, m. Mary Stacy Aug. 18, 1718. He d. Dec. 3, 1761. Their children were: —

Mary, b. Aug. 20, 1719, m. Henry Badger; Lewis, b. May 16, 1721; Hannah, b. Feb. 22, 1723, m. —— Meacham; Paul, b. Dec. 16, 1725; John, b. June 1, 1728; Elizabeth, b. July 1, 1730, d. Sept. 23, 1740; Anna, b. Sept. 21, 1732, d. Sept. 12, 1740.

Lewis Langdon, son of Paul and Mary Langdon, m. —— Cooley, of Monson. Their children were: —

Lewis; John; Philip; Christopher, b. March 3, 1756; Rachael; Sarah.

Christopher Langdon, son of Lewis Langdon, m. Polly Walker. Their children were: —

Lathrop; Polly; Sylvanus; Caroline; Francis.

This family removed to Ohio in 1814.

Capt. Paul Langdon, son of Lieut. Paul and Mary Langdon, m. Thankful Stebbins May 5, 1757. He d. June 23, 1804. Their children were: —

Samuel, b. May 10, 1758, d. Feb. 20, 1822; Thankful, b. July 4, 1760, m. —— Burt; Paul, b. Aug. 18, 1761; Lovice, b. Nov. 13, 1768, m. (1) —— Loomis, (2) Joseph Wood, Monson; Mary, b. Oct. 12, 1770, m. Jacob Wood; Walter, b. June 22, 1779.

Paul Langdon, son of Paul and Thankful Langdon, m. Azubah King, Ellington, Conn. He d. July 6, 1830; she d. ——. Their children were: —

Calvin, b. Sept. 5, 1788, m. Sybil Kibbe, Somers, Conn.; Noah, b. June, 1790; Paul Lyman; Harlow; Betsey, b. July 9, 1801, m. Erastus H. Stebbins June 12, 1828; she d. 1863.

Noah Langdon, son of Paul and Azubah Langdon, married Eunice Torrey, Monson, Dec. 20, 1821. He d. Dec. 27, 1849. Their children were: —

Noah Franklin, b. Dec. 6, 1822, d. Aug. 4, 1823; Horatio Franklin, b. June 13, 1824, m. Sarah A. Moody, Monson; Jonathan Torrey, b. May 26, 1829, m. Helen Bickford, W. Springfield; Mary Emily, b. Nov. 7, 1831, m. Nathaniel A. Patten, Somers, Conn., May 14, 1853; Martha Azubah, b. May 21, 1834; Wm. Patten, b. Dec. 8, 1837, d. Oct. 6, 1838.

Paul L. Langdon, son of Paul and Azubah Langdon, m. Jael Hathaway. Their children were: —

Celia; Paul Lyman; David King. This family left town previous to 1830.

Harlow Langdon, son of Paul and Azubah Langdon, m. Laura Merrick, Monson. Their children were: —

Harlow Merrick, b. April 6, 1833; Laura Caroline, b. Sept., 1835, m. Constant M. Stebbins, Longmeadow; Elizabeth Victoria, b. Jan. 31, 1838; Royal Clinton, b. Feb., 1843, d. May 1, 1844.

Harlow Langdon m. his 2d wife, Caroline Russell, April, 1846. Their child was: —

Royal Clinton, b. March 1847, d. March 16, 1848.

Harlow M. Langdon, son of Harlow and Laura Langdon, m. Lorett M. Cooley, Somers, Conn., Nov. 25, 1857. Their child was: —

Grosvenor Merrick, b. Oct. 12, 1861.

Walter Langdon, son of Capt. Paul and Thankful Langdon, m. Sophia Badger, N.Y., March, 1803. Their children were: —

Walter Morgan, b. Sept. 15, 1804; Albertus Badger, b. April 1, 1806; William Harwood, b. Jan. 23, 1808; Minerva Loomis, b. Sept. 8, 1820, m. James P. Streeter, Vernon, Vt., Nov. 26, 1840; Oliver Hanson, b. March 14, 1824.

Walter M. Langdon, son of Walter and Sophia Langdon, m. Sally Frost, Springfield. Their children were: —

Morgan Emory, b. Oct. 2, 1827; Sarah Arletia, b. Dec. 8, 1829, m. Elbridge G. Smith, W. Springfield, May, 1857; Anniejean, b. April 23, 1831, m. Cheney Bemis, Spencer, Jan. 6, 1853; Rosella, b. Sept. 16, 1833, m. Robert Lathrop, N. Y. City, Jan. 6, 1853; Paul, b. March 14, 1835, d. Nov., 1857; Walter Perkins, b. Nov. 14, 1836, m. Lucy Cook, Springfield; Emeline Elizabeth, b. May 19, 1845.

Morgan E. Langdon, son of Walter M. and Sally Langdon, m. Mary C. Ranger, Brookfield, August, 1848. Their children were: —

James Emory, b. May 5, 1849; Alice Minerva, b. Sept. 6, 1851.

Albertus B Langdon, son of Walter and Sophia Langdon, m. Nancy Batchelder, Jenksville. Their children were: —

Albertus, b. March 4, 1836; Esther Davison, b. July 20, 1839, m. Henry Adams, Adams, Jan. 19, 1860.

William H. Langdon, son of Walter and Sophia Langdon, m. Harriet N. Carley, Hatfield, Sept. 20, 1831. Their children were: —

Charles Henry, b. March 20, 1833; Walter Carley, b. Sept. 26, 1834, m. Helen Ferry, Chicopee, 1855; Mary Eliza, b. Oct. 22, 1836, d. May 29, 1838; William Thompson, b. June 27, 1838; James Chapman, b. July 16, 1840, m. Ellen Chesebro, Springfield, Nov. 25, 1862; Mary Eliza, b. Nov. 13, 1842; Harriet Rosabelle, b. Oct. 28, 1844; Jessie Wilson Rice, b. June 22, 1847; Emma Rosella, b. Sept. 16, 1849; Flora Francelia, b. June 5, 1852; Carrie Isabella, b. May 29, 1858.

William T. Langdon, son of Wm. H. and Harriet N. Langdon, m. Kate B. Jenks, Ludlow, Nov., 1859. Their child was: —

Anna Sophia, b. June, 1860.

Oliver H. Langdon, son of Walter and Sophia Langdon, m. Eliza Hubbard, Indian Orchard, Dec. 20, 1850. Their children were: —

Annette Arletia, b. Oct. 19, 1851; Calvin Hanson, b. Oct. 18, 1853.

He married his 2d wife, Mary R. Billings, Longmeadow, Oct. 15, 1858. Their children were: —

Mary Agnes, b. March 11, 1860; Joseph Oliver, b. April 11, 1862.

John Langdon, son of *Lieut. Paul* and Mary Langdon, m. Sarah Stebbins Feb., 1755. Their child was: —

Sarah, b. July 12, 1755, m. Ebenezer Crocker, Kinderhook, N. Y.

He m., 2d, Eunice Torrey, Mansfield, Conn., Dec. 29, 1757. He d. Oct 10, 1822. He was a man of great energy. Their children were: —

John Wilson, b. March 11, 1759, m. —— Ashley, Springfield; Artemas, b. May 25, 1760, d. Oct. 2, 1760; James, b. March 27, 1762, m. Esther Stebbins; Josiah, b. Jan. 12, 1765; Joanna, b. June 21, 1767, m. Preserved Leonard, W. Springfield; Oliver, b. Oct. 9, 1769; Eunice, b. Mar. 7, 1772, m. Asa Merritt, Blandford; Solomon, b. July 19, 1777.

Of these five brothers, three were Methodist preachers, John W., Oliver, and Solomon; and one was an "exhorter," James. The descendants of these four brothers reside in Cincinnati, Ohio, and vicinity. One of the daughters, Joanna, also removed to Ohio.

Josiah Langdon,* son of John and Eunice Langdon, m. Sally Hall, Middletown, Conn., Feb. 10, 1801. He d. Feb. 5, 1855. Their children were: —

Josiah Hooker, b. Feb. 18, 1802, d. March 29, 1846; Seth Hall, b. April 8, 1804, d. Oct. 27, 1822; Sarah Eliza, b. July 22, 1806, m. Calvin Stebbins Jan. 16, 1833; John Wilson, b. June 14, 1808; Mary Ann, b. Aug. 17, 1813, m. J. Wesley Bliss.

John W. Langdon, son of Josiah and Sally Langdon, m. Mrs. Lydia L. McCray, Ellington, Conn., Nov. 18, 1840. Their child was: —

John Morris, b. Aug. 13, 1843, d. Aug. 1, 1844.

He m., 2d, Emily A. Stebbins, April 24, 1845. Their children were: —

Louisa Wilson, b. May 23, 1848; Wilson Stebbins, b. Nov. 8, 1858.

MERRICK FAMILY.

Thomas Merrick was born in Wales, and came to this country about the year 1630, and settled in Roxbury. He removed to Springfield about the year 1635–36. He married Sarah Stebbins, of Springfield, 1639. They had five sons, four of whom, John, Thomas, Tilly, and James, married and had families.

Capt. John m. Mary Day, of Springfield, 1687. They had seven sons and six daughters.

* Josiah Langdon was a man of literary taste, and wrote considerable poetry in his day. His "Song of the Hoe" is the best known.

Thomas m. Hannah Dumbleton, Dec., 1690. They had four sons and three daughters.
Tilly m. Sarah Cooley, Sept., 1694. They had one son and four daughters.
James m. Sarah Hitchcock, July, 1695. They had four sons and three daughters.

Thomas, son of Capt. John and Mary Merrick, married Eunice Stebbins, March, 1733, and settled in Wilbraham. Their children were : —

Eunice, b. Dec., 1733, d. July, 1734. Eunice, the mother, d. July, 1734, and Thomas, the father, m., for his 2d wife, Mary Warner, May, 1738. Their children were : —

Timothy, b. May, 1739, d. by the bite of a rattlesnake, Aug. 7, 1761; Eunice, b. May, 1742, m. Dea. Gideon Burt, Jan., 1771; Lucy, b. Nov., 1746, d. October, 1752; Mary, b. Sept., 1751, m. Lieut. Jonathan Merrick, 1774.

Dea. David Merrick, son of Thomas and Hannah Merrick, m. Mary Colton, Jan., 1735, and settled in Wilbraham. Their children were : —

Mary, b. October, 1735, m. Reuben Chapin, Jan., 1761; David, b. May, 1739, d. in foreign lands; Thomas, b. May, 1741, d. February, 1742; Louis, b. October, 1743, m. Samuel Day, 1766; Jonathan, b. March, 1747, d. March, 1812.

Lieut. Jonathan Merrick, son of Dea. David and Mary Merrick, m. Mary Merrick, January, 1774. Their children were : —

Mary, b. April, 1775, m. Dr. Joel Lyman, of Ludlow; David, b. March, 1779, d. August, 1783; John, b. Feb., 1781; Thomas, b. May, 1784; Laura, b. March, 1786, d. Aug., 1786; Laura, b. January, 1789, m. Dr. Luther Brewer.

Jonathan, the father, d. March, 1812; Mary, the mother, d. Dec. 16, 1831.

John, son of Jonathan and Mary Merrick, m. Harriet Brewer, December, 1804. Their children were : —

John Marshall, b. December, 1806, d. December, 1806; Harriet Cornelia, b. March 21, 1808, d. Jan. 13, 1828; John Marshall, b. May 9, 1810; Susan Mary Ann, b. August, 1812, d. August, 1816.

John, the father, died August, 1816; Harriet, the mother, m. John Bliss, April, 1818.

Thomas Merrick, son of Lieut. Jonathan and Mary Merrick, m. Anna Brewer, January, 1806. Their children were : —

Thomas Edwin, b. July, 1808; William Winslow, b. July, 1810; Daniel Delos, b. Nov., 1814.

Thomas, the father, died Feb., 1818; Anna, the mother died at Clinton, La.

John M. Merrick, son of John and Harriet Merrick, m. Mary J. Thompson of New Haven, Conn., March, 1832. Their children were : —

William Marshall, b. March 24, 1833; an infant son, b. December, 1836, d. December, 1836; Harriet Cornelia, b. September 15, 1843, m. Rev. Wm. I. Warren, Ap. 14, 1861.

Hon. Thomas E. Merrick, son of Thomas and Anna Merrick, m. Caroline Thomas, of Clinton, Louisiana, and settled in New Orleans.

Wm. W. Merrick, son of Thomas and Anna Merrick, m. Eugene Hancock. Their children were : —

Sarah Ann, b. Jan. 13, 1843, d. May 16, 1844; Delos D., b. February 17, 1843.

Dr. Daniel D. Merrick, son of Thomas and Anna Merrick, m. Isabella Smith, of Clinton, La., and settled in that place, and practised medicine there until his death.

Wm. M. Merrick, son of John M. and Mary J. Merrick, m. Sarah M. Kettels, Nov. 17, 1858. Their children were : —

Evelyn, b. Nov. 19, 1859; Gertrude, b. Feb. 4, 1862; a son, b. Nov. 15, 1863.

Rev. Noah Merrick, son of Lieut. James and Sarah Merrick, m. Abigail Brainard, October, 1744. Their children were : —

Noah, b. Nov., 1745, drowned at Cambridge, June, 1762; Sarah, b. June, 1747, m. Col. Abel King, 1772; Chilea Brainard, b. May, 1749; Samuel Fisk, b. September, 1751; Lydia, b. July, 1753, m. Rev. Aaron Church; Pliny, b. September, 1755, d. March, 1814; Lucy, b. September, 1757, d. September, 1757.

Rev. Noah Merrick, the father, d. Dec., 1776; Abigail, the mother, d. Sept., 1807.

Dea. Chileab B. Merrick, son of Rev. Noah and Abigail Merrick, m. Lucina Smith, Dec., 1773. Their children were : —

Lucy, b. April, 1774, m. Wm. Perkins; Lydia, b. Jan., 1776, m. George Forward; Noah,

b. June, 1781; Pliny, b. Jan., 1786; Lucina Almira, b. June, 1791; Chileab Brainard, b. 1793.

Chileab, the father, d. May 1, 1833; Lucina, the mother, d. Nov. 17, 1828.

Dr. Samuel F. Merrick, son of Rev. Noah and Abigail Merrick, m. Sarah Mukins, July, 1780. Their children were: —

Sarah, b. July, 1781, d. July 21, 1820; Abigail, b. February, 1783, drowned April 29, 1799, in Nine-mile Pond, with five others; Mary Mukins, b. March, 1785, m. S. Moseley; Thomas F. and Lydia Fisk (twins), b. December, 1794; Lucy, b. January, 1797.

Samuel F., the father, d. Sept. 2, 1835.

Pliny Merrick, son of Rev. Noah Merrick and Abigail his wife, m. December, 1789, Ruth Cutler, daughter of Maj. Gen. John Cutler of Brookfield. Their children were: —

Mira, b. at Brookfield Oct. 14, 1790; Francis F., b. June 29, 1792, d. July 28, 1863; Pliny, b. Aug. 2, 1794; Nancy Cutler, b. Dec. 11, 1797, d. April 1, 1843; John, b. April 6, 1800, d. September 6, 1804; Thornton A., b. Dec. 16, 1803, d. September 12, 1855; John Cutler, b. Dec. 7, 1809, d. May 15, 1857.

Mira m., Nov. 2, 1817, Samuel Allen, of Worcester, who died February, 1863. Nancy Cutler m., 1829, Henry W. Miller, of Worcester.

Noah Merrick, son of Dea. Chileab B. and Lucina Merrick, m. Statira Hayes, of Hartford, Conn., January, 1805. Their children were: —

Abigail, b. December, 1805, m. Paoli Lathrop; Roderick Smith, b. January, 1808; Roderick, b. January, 1810; Fanny, b. September, 1812, m. Ephraim Perkins; George Hayes, b. July, 1821, d. January 9, 1841; Hellen, b. February, 1824; Edward Dwight, b. August, 1827, d. June 7, 1839.

Noah, the father, d. Nov. 10, 1856; Statira, the mother, d. November 19, 1849.

Pliny Merrick, son of Dea. Chileab B. and Lucina Merrick, m. Florilla Moody, Jan., 1817. Their child was: —

Frances Cutler, b. July 5, 1818, d. May 19, 1843.

The mother d. March 28, 1819. The father m. Dorcas Newell, May, 1820; their children were: —

Florilla, b, March 5, 1821, d. July 15, 1823; Doreas Newell, b. Jan. 7, 1822, d. December 22, 1849; Pliny Kirkland, b. Jan. 16, 1824, d. in California, Dec. 8, 1849; Daniel Brainard, b. June 21, 1831; Florilla, b. Nov. 1, 1835.

Samuel Fisk Merrick, son of Samuel F. and Sarah Merrick, m. Mary Starkweather, September, 1812. Their children were: —

Samuel Fisk, b. April 8, 1814, d. April 13, 1814; Martha, b. June, 1815, m. Mr. Gale; Abby Maria, b. June, 1817, m. Mr. Clark; Samuel Fisk, b. Sept. 27, 1819; Sarah Mukins, b. Nov., 1821, m. Mr. Mears; James, b. Dec., 1823; Roxanna S., b. March, 1826, m. Mr. Goodale; Charles S., b. November, 1828, d. December, 1844; Mary Jane, b. Aug. 4, 1831, m. J. R. Baker, d. December, 1859.

Samuel F., the father, d. April 13, 1855; Sarah, the mother, d. Jan. 24, 1863.

Hon. George Merrick, son of Samuel F. and Sarah Merrick, married and settled in Glastenbury, Conn.

Roderick S. Merrick, son of Noah and Statira Merrick, m. Emily Bliss, November, 1833. Their children were: —

Sophronia Warriner, b. February, 1835, m. C. R. Starkweather; Abigail, b. May, 1838, m. William Seamans; Edward, b. May, 1842; Frederick, b. Nov., 1843; Emily b. Aug., 1851, d. March, 1853.

Roderick, the father, d. March 30, 1853.

Frederick Merrick, son of Noah and Statira Merrick, m. S. Fidelia Griswold, and settled in Delaware, Ohio.

Daniel B. Merrick, son of Pliny and Dorcas Merrick, m. Anna L. Day, April 14, 1854. Their child was: —

Dora, b. April 23, 1859.

Samuel F. Merrick, son of Samuel F. and Mary Merrick, m. Amanda Weston. Their child was: —

Amanda Weston, b. October, 1853.

James Merrick, son of Samuel F. and Mary Merrick, m. Eunice J. Libbey. Their children were: —

James Stewart, b. January, 1854; Fanny Merriam, b. September, 1357.

MORRIS FAMILY.

Isaac Morris married Sarah Chaffee. He came from Woodstock, Conn., about the year 1760 or 61, and settled on Springfield Mountains. They had children, who bore the following names: Hannah, Darius, Isaac, Joseph, Edward, Elizabeth, who died in childhood; Sarah, Eunice, Chester, Ebenezer, Elizabeth, and Ephraim.

Hannah Morris married John Davis.

Darius married Elizabeth Fisher, and had two children, whose names were Sylvester and Asenath. His second wife was Rebecca Chandler; their children's names were, Elizabeth, Joseph, Rebecca, Fanny, Sylenda, Hannah, and Sarah.

Joseph married Lydia Russell. The names of their children were, Louisa, Delia, Abigail, Darius, Sylenda, Robert, Sylvester, and Joseph.

Isaac Morris married Irene Johnson. The names of their children were, Mary, Sarah, Eunice, Isaac, Irene, and Roxanna.

Joseph died at Lake George, "in the service of his country," aged 21 years.

Edward Morris served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He married Lucy Bliss. Their children were as follows: Oliver Bliss, Edward, Isaac, John Bliss, Lucy, Abby, Thirza, Richard Darius, and Edward Alonzo.

Oliver B. Morris married Caroline Bliss.

Edward Morris married Sally Flynt. They had one child, Edward F. She died, and he married Mercy Flynt. The names of their children were, Sarah F., Charles, George F., Maria M., Henry, and Jonathan F.

Sarah F. married Daniel D. Chaffee, and had two daughters, Catharine N. and Lucy M.

John B. Morris married Lucia Granger. The names of their children are, Caroline, Francis G., William P., and Elizabeth L.

Lucy Morris married Dr. Daniel Ufford. Their children's names are Dixon D., Lucien, Lucy M., Mary G., Thirza M., and Edward W.

Abby Morris married Ralph R. Rollo.

Richard D. Morris married Sybil Bonticou.

Sarah Morris married Stephen Pease.

Eunice Morris married Joshua Clark.

Chester Morris married Betsey Wales.

Ebenezer Morris married Kinda May.

Elizabeth Morris married David Hume.

Ephraim Morris married Pamelia Converse.

BLISS (JOHN) FAMILY.

John Bliss* married Abiel Colton. They came from Longmeadow. He served as soldier in the French War, and as Lieutenant Colonel in the Revolutionary War. The names of the children were, Oliver; Lydia, who died in January, 1755, and who was the first laid in the burying-ground in the South Parish; Lydia; Abiel, and Lucy.

Lydia married Rev. Moses Warren. The names of their children were, Moses, Lydia, John Bliss, and Aaron. Lydia Warren married Rev. Levi Smith. John B. Warren married Caroline Atwood. Aaron Warren married Betsey Stacy; the names of their children are, Lydia B., Moses H., and John B.

Abiel Bliss married Josiah Cooley.

Lucy Bliss married Edward Morris. (See Morris Family).

* John Bliss was a man of great influence, and of high native talent. He was born 1727; was a self-taught man, an ardent Whig in the Revolution, a member of the Provincial Congress, a representative in the Legislature for eight years, a senator, a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, a colonel of militia; almost always, for many years, moderator of town-meetings: and he held numerous other offices of trust and responsibility. He was a public man. He died in 1809. — *J. G. Holland.*

RUSSELL FAMILY.

Ezekiel Russell was b. in Reading, Mass., in 1721, and d. in Wilbraham, Jan, 3, 1802. Tabatha Flynt, his wife, was b. also in Reading, Mass., and d. in Wilbraham Jan. 4, 1808. After their marriage in Reading, they removed to Ashford, Ct., in what year it is not known. They removed from Ashford to Wilbraham in 1759. Their children were as follows: —

Ezekiel, b. 1753, d. 1795; Tabatha, b. 1755, d. 1778, aged 23 years; Robert, b. June 2, 1757, d. Dec. 9, 1836; Benjamin, b. 1762, d. in the army, 1778, aged 16 years; Asa, b. 1765, time of death unknown. Of these children,

Ezekiel m. for his first wife, Susan Hills, by whom he had no children. For his second wife he m. Hannah Meacham, of Somers, Ct., by whom he had the following children: —

Benjamin Hills, b. June 23, 1780, d. Oct. 2, 1848; Ezekiel, d. in infancy; Submit, d. in infancy; Submit, d. in infancy; Joseph, b. 1788, d. 1850; Susan, b. 1790, d. 1823.

Tabatha m. Nathan Stedman. Their children were: —

Nathan; Beulah; Sophia; Erastus; Abigail; Achsia.

Robert Russell m. Lydia Beebe. Their children were: —

Hepsibah, b. Sept. 3, 1783; Lydia, b. July 9, 1785; Robert, an infant, d. Jan. 2, 1788; Robert, b. Aug., 1890, d. Feb. 10, 1825. He was a graduate of Williams College, studied law, and died at Hebron, Ct.

Asa Russell m. Thankful Foot; had a number of children, who, with their parents lived and died in Western New York.

Benjamin Hills Russell m. Lydia Tilden, who was b. in Stoughton, Mass., June 28, 1780, and d. June 15, 1847. Their children were: —

Ezekiel; Mary Withington; Lydia; Cortez Flynt; Adeline; Lucy; Horace Meacham.

Ezekiel Russell, and the father of the Hendricks, owned a tract of land extending from the road that crosses the mountain, by Samuel Beebe's, to the North Parish, eastward to the Monson line, which, after the purchase, they divided between them. The Russell portion remained in the hands of the family for about one hundred and thirty years.

Ezekiel Russell had a brother in Reading, who was never married, whose name was Benjamin. He had a negro slave, whom he manumitted, and to whom he gave all his property at his death.

STEBBINS FAMILY.

The Stebbinses, not only of this town, but of the whole country, are descendants of Rowland Stebbing (as the name was first spelled in this country, and as it is now universally spelled in England), who came to this country in 1634. He was born in 1594, near Cambridge in England, and was a friend of Wm. Pynchon. In the family name, Stebbing, the termination *ing* is supposed to be of Saxon origin, and means, *field*, so that the name is descriptive, as all family names at first were, meaning *stub field*. Hence, in the early mention of the name, 1235 and 1324, a prefix *de* is used, John *de* Stebbing, Nicholas *de* Stybbynge. The earliest mention of the name yet discovered is in the chancery books of the county of Essex, 1201, where, in the hundred of Hineford, there is a town or parish of Stebbing.

The armorial bearings of Stebbing (London and Wisset, Co. Suffolk). Quarterly. or and gu.; on a bend Sa. five bezants. — Crest. a lion's head erased ar.

Rowland, aged 40, brought with him from England his wife, Sarah, aged 43; Thomas, aged 14; Sarah, aged 11; John, aged 8; Elizabeth, aged 6. He stopped a short time in Roxbury, where Sarah, his wife, died Oct. 4, 1649, then came to Springfield, to his friend Pynchon. The father and his son John soon removed to Northampton, where Rowland died, Dec. 14, 1671, aged 77. His grave was opened by Daniel Stebbins, M. D., 1850, after the remains had been buried 179 years, and a marble slab, with suitable inscription, was to be placed at the head of the grave. A granite cenotaph had been erected to his memory in Dr. Stebbins's family square, as early as 1840, when his descendants had despaired of identifying his grave. All the "up river" Stebbinses are descendants of *John*, of North-

ampton; the "down river" Stebbinses, of *Thomas*, of Springfield. The Wilbraham Stebbinses came from Longmeadow.

ROWLAND STEBBINS (1), b. 1594; Sarah, his wife, b. 1591. Their children were:—
Thomas (2), b. 1620; Sarah (2), b. 1623; John (2), b. 1626; Elizabeth (2), b. 1628.

Thomas Stebbins (2), eldest son of Rowland, m. Nov. 1645, Hannah, dr. of Dea. Samuel Wright. He died Sept. 25, 1683, aged 63. She died Oct. 16, 1660, and he m. for his 2d wife, Abigail, widow of Benjamin Munn. Their children were:—
Samuel (3), b. Sept. 19, 1646; Thomas (3), b, July 31, 1648; Joseph (3), b. May 18, 1650, d. ——; Joseph (3). b. Oct. 24, 1652; Sarah (3), Aug. 6, 1654; Edward, b. April 14, 1656; Benjamin, b. April 11, 1658; Hannah, b. Oct. 1, 1660.

Samuel Stebbins (3), the eldest son of Thomas (2), m. Joanna Lamb, July 22, 1679. Their children were:—
Thomas (4), b. Dec, 26, 1681; Samuel (4), b. May 13, 1683, and others.

Samuel Stebbins (4), m. Hannah, dr. of Luke Hitchcock, Jan. 30, 1707. He d. June 17, 1767, aged 84. Their children were:—
Samuel (5), b. June 19, 1708; Jonathan (5), b. Oct. 24, 1709; Stephen (5), b. Oct. 16, 1711; Hannah, b. June 10, 1713, m. Moses Parsons; Aaron (5), b. Feb. 20, 1715; Joanna, b. Nov. 1, 1716, m. James Firman, July 31, 1740; Moses (5), b. Dec. 4, 1718; Luke (5), b. Jan. 28, 1722; Sarah (5), b. Nov. 8, 1725, d. ——; Nehemiah (5), b. April 14, 1727, m. to Elizabeth Morgan, Oct. 3, 1753; Thankful (5), b. March 4, 1730, d.——.

Samuel Stebbins (5), m. Mary Knowlton, March 22, 1734; moved from Longmeadow to Wilbraham, 1735. She died Aug. 22, 1750. Their children were:—
Mary (6), b. Aug. 23, 1735, d. ——; Thankful (6), b. Feb. 14, 1737, m. Paul Langdon, May 5, 1757; Seth (6), b. Jan. 8, 1739, d. ——; Noah (6), b. Oct, 13, 1741; Mary (6), b. March 25, 1744, m. Enos, son of Jonathan Stebbins, April 21, 1763; Mercy (6), b. Feb. 12, 1747; Samuel (6), b. Sept. 8, 1751; Seth (6), b. July 17, 1753, d. ——.

Stephen Stebbins (5), son of Samuel (4), m. Oct. 9, 1733, Sarah Bliss; moved from Longmeadow to Wilbraham, 1741. Their children were:—
Sarah (6), b. May 15, 1734, m. John Laugdon; Eunice (6), b. Dec. 15, 1735, d.——; Eldad (6), b. Aug. 13, 1737; Phineas (6), b. May 19, 1739; Zadock (6), b. Aug. 12, 1741; Eunice (6), b. Nov. 15, 1743, m. David Lyon May 17, 1764; Ruth (6), b. Feb. 10, 1746; Hannah (6), b. Aug. 10, 1748; Stephen (6), b. Sept. 28, 1750, d. ——; Stephen (6), b. April 28, 1752; Gad (6), b. Feb. 12, 1756.

Aaron Stebbins (5), son of Samuel (4), m. Mary Wood, Oct. 18, 1744. Their children were:
Mary (6), b. June 19, 1748, m. George Saxton; Aaron (6), b. March 20, 1750; James (6), b. Dec. 31, 1751, d. ——; Seth (6), b. Sept. 6, 1754; Martha (6), b. Feb. 15, 1757, d. ——; James (6), b. Oct. 6, 1760; This family removed early to Vershire, Vt.

Moses Stebbins (5), son of Samuel (4), m. Dorcas Hale, June 27, 1749. Their children were:
Moses (6), b. May 3, 1750; Calvin (6), b. July 30. 1751; Esther (6), b. Jan. 26, 1755; Ambrose (6), b. Oct. 17, 1756; Dorcas (6), b. Feb. 17, 1759, d. ——; David (6), b. Feb. 29, 1760; Timothy (6), b. April 17, 1762; Dorcas (6), b. Aug. 2, 1765; Chester (6), b. Jan. 23, 1769; Thankful (6), b. March 21, 1773.

Lieut. Noah Stebbins (6), son of Samuel (5), was m. to Margaret Stebbins, dr. of Jonathan Stebbins, May 22, 1765. Their children were:—
Noah (7), b. Feb. 12, 1766; Azariah (7), b. Oct. 27, 1767; Margaret (7), b. May 5, 1769, m. Augustus Sisson; Elijah (7), b. Jan. 14, 1772; Luther (7), b. Oct. 25, 1773; Marcy (7), b. Dec. 8, 1775; Luther (7), b. June 12, 1777; John (7), b. Aug. 13, 1779; Charity (7), b. Nov. 23, 1781; Persis (7), b. Sept. 23, 1784.

Eldad Stebbins (6), son of Stephen (5), m., April 11, 1765, Ann Badger, dr. of Henry Badger. Their children were:—
Ann (7), b. Feb. 4, 1764, m. Noah Stebbins (7); Bina (7), b. Aug. 11, 1767, m. Samuel Lyman; Eldad (7), b. June 13, 1767; d. ——; Gilbert (7), b. March 11, 1769, m. Mary Wood, removed to New York; Luther and Calvin (7), b. March 2, 1771, d. ——; Lovice (7), b. March 7, 1772, d. ——; Eldad (7), b. April 4, 1774; Luther (7), b. Sept. 29, 1776; Calvin (7), b. March 5, 1778; Alpheus (7), b. July 28, 1780; Lovice (7), b. Dec. 7, 1782, m. Stephen Stebbins (7).

Phineas Stebbins (6), son of Stephen (5), m., May 19, 1767, Ann Chaffee. Their children were:

Phineas (7), b. July 13, 1768; Anna (7), b. March 7, 1769; Walter (7), b. Dec. 30, 1770; Silas (7), b. Oct. 30, 1772, d. ——; Harvey (7), b. ——, removed to New York; Lucina (7), b. Jan. 29, 1775, d. ——; Lucina (7), b. Sept. 12, 1780, m. Luther Stebbins.

Zadock Stebbins (6), m. Elizabeth Pease, Nov. 19, 1764. Their children were:—

Zadock (7), b. April 2, 1765; Augustus (7), b. March 28, 1767; John (7), b. Sept. 15, 1769; Flavia (7), b. Nov. 30, 1771, m. John Roper; Chauncey (7), b. Aug. 13, 1774; Abigail (7), b. Aug. 14, 1776.

Stephen Stebbins (6), m. Chloe Hale, 1776. Their children were:—

Stephen (7), b. Oct. 18, 1779, d. 1863; Sylvanus (7), b, Aug. 15, 1781; Solomon (7), b. Aug. 2, 1783; Porter (7), b. ——, d. ——; Samuel (7), b. ——, d. ——; Chloe (7), b. ——, m. (1) Ira Leach, m. (2) Converse Shepard.

Moses Stebbins, (6), son of Moses (5), m. Hannah Hale, of Enfield, 1776. Their children were:—

Clarissa (7); Warren, d. ——; Asenath (7), m. Amasa Worthington, Williamstown, Vt.; Hannah, (7), m. Geo, Calkins, Waterbury Vt.; Milo (7), m. Betsey Fisk, Williamstown, Vt.; David (7); Dorcas (7), m. Abijah White, Williamstown, Vt.; Flavel (7), m. Chloe Warner; Moses. Moses, the father, m. (2) Catharine Chapin, Ludlow.

Calvin Stebbins (6), son of Moses (5), m. Sarah Saxton, May 5, 1785. Their children were: Sarah (7), b. Sept. 6, 1786, d. March 14, 1852; Experience (7), b. Sept. 30, 1787; Calvin (7), b. Oct. 20, 1789, m. Fanny Gager, Wellington, Ct.; Gorham (7), b. Dec. 24, 1791, m. Lydia Shutts, Hinsdale, N. Y.; Charlotte (7), b. Sept. 24, 1793; Laura (7), b. Dec. 25, 1795, d. Feb. 27, 1797; Amanda (7), b. Nov. 10, 1797, m. Robert Sessions.

David Stebbins (6), son of Moses (5), m. Mary Charter, Ellington, Ct., March 11. 1790. He died Jan. 24, 1844. Their children were:—

Mary (7), b. Dec. 16, 1790, m. John Selden, m. Benoni Atchinson; Marcia (7), b. Aug. 23, 1792; John Charter (7), b. Sept. 28, 1794, m. Anna Greggs, Brimfield, Mass.; Lucia (7), b. Dec. 14, 1796, m. James Stanton, May 27, 1829; Erastus Hill (7), b. March 1, 1800, m. Betsey Langdon; David Austin (7), b. Dec. 13, 1803, d. Jan. 24, 1860.

Aaron Stebbins (6), son of Aaron (5), m. Mary —— . Their children were:—

Seth (7), b. Jan. 23, 1761; Enoch (7), b. Jan. 5, 1763.

Noah Stebbins (7), son of Noah (6), m. Anna Stebbins, dr. of Eldad Stebbins (6), Jan. 5, 1792. Their children were:—

Ferocia (8), b. April 2, 1793, m. Ephraim Fuller, d. Sept. 3, 1834; Sempronia (8), b. May 10, 1794, m. Daniel Mixter; Minerva (8), b. Jan. 3, 1796, d. Aug. 14, 1839; Anna Miranda (8), b. July 23, 1797, d. Jan. 1798; Anna Miranda (8), b. Oct. 23, 1798, d. March 7, 1838; Almira (8), b. Oct. 11, 1800, d. May 10, 1845; Noah Granger (8), b. July 2, 1802; Henry Badger (8), b. Jan. 20. 1805, d. Dec. 16, 1833; Lucinda (8), b. Jan. 23, 1808, m. Edwin Walkley, Montgomery, Ala., d.——. Noah Stebbins, the father, d. June 7, 1828. Anna, the mother, d, March 10, 1861.

Luther Stebbins (7), son of Noah (6), m. Phebe Hitchcock, Nov. 27, 1805. He died Aug. 18, 1860. Their children were:—

Orson (8), b. July 9, 1807; Laura (8), b. March 12, 1809, m. Smith Calkins; Margaret (8), b. Feb. 4, 1812, m. Isaac W. Leach, Aug. 4, 1830; Desire (8), b. Sept. 23, 1814, d. March 2, 1845; Sally (8), b. Oct. 23, 1816, m. Manassah Knowlton, Feb. 27, 1839; Milton (8), b. June 8, 1819; Phebe (8), b. Dec. 13, 1820, m. Seymour Hills, Somers, Ct.; Hiram (8), b. April 6, 1823, m. Mary Houghton, and (2) Susan Lawrence; Lucia (8), b. June 28, 1825, m. Stebbins Fosket March 13, 1847.

Luther Stebbins (7), son of Eldad (6), m. Lucina (7), dr. of Phineas (6). He d. Aug. 31, 1825, aged 49. She d. Jan. 28, 1848, aged 67. Their children were:—

Luther Lester (8), b. Feb. 7, 1803, m. Sophia Shaw, Oct. 15, 1829; Lucina Elvira (8), b. Aug 30, 1807, m. Thomas Isham; Rufus Phineas (8), b. March 3, 1810, m. Eliza C. Livermore, Cambridge, Sept., 1837; Emily Anna (8), b. Dec. 17, 1822, m. John Langdon.

Calvin Stebbins (7), son of Eldad Stebbins (6), m. Amelia Adams, dr. of John and Rebecca Adams, Nov. 30, 1815. He d. Jan. 22, 1859. She d. Dec. 14, 1827. He m. (2) Sarah Eliza Langdon, Jan. 16, 1833. The children by 1st wife were:—

Roderick (8), b. Nov. 14, 1816, m. ——; Randolph (8), b. Aug. 24, 1819, m. Sophia P. Keyes, Longmeadow, Nov. 18, (?) 1860; Horatio (8), b. Aug. 8. 1821, m. ——; Calvin

Adams (8), b. May 29, 1825, d. Sept. 25, 1826; an infant son, b. Oct. 5, 1827, d. Oct. 10. Children by 2d wife: —

An infant son, b. Oct. 13, 1834, d. Oct. 29; Calvin (8) b. April 22, 1836; Amelia (8), b. Oct. 8, 1837, d. Nov. 12, 1857.

Alpheus Stebbins (7), son of Eldad (6), m. Mary Holt, West Springfield, Nov. 14, 1805. He d. Sept. 25, 1857. Their children were: —

Melissa (8) b. June 2, 1802, d. ——; Eldad Holt (8), b. July 1, 1809, m. Miriam Chaffee, April 3, 1832; Dwight Mason (8), b. Aug. 7, 1811, m. Tryphena Sikes, Aug. 27, 184–; Clarissa (8), b. June 24, 1813, d. Sept. 8, 1830; Jackson (8), b. Nov. 4, 1815; Dixon (8), b. Feb. 13, 1818, d. ——; Margaret A. (8), b. May 3, 1820, d. Feb. 1, 1856; Mary (8), b. Nov. 5, 1825, d. ——.

Stephen Stebbins (7), son of Stephen (6), m. Lovice (7), dr. of Eldad (6). She d. May 16, 1857. He d. ——, 1863. Their children were: —

Mary Ann (8), b. Aug. 9, 1807, d. Oct. 23, 1825; Celestina (8) b. Sept. 26, 1810, m. Lyman Phelps, Springfield, May 23, 1849; Angeline (8), b. Jan. 28, 1813, d. June 19, 1839; Juliana (8), b. July, 1815, d. Oct. 21, 1831; Jane Maria (8), b. Feb., 1820, d. July 25, 1841; Frances C. (8), b. Feb. 1822, d. Dec. 14, 1843; Sarah Cordelia (8), b. July 23, 1823, m. Solomon West, Nov. 14, 185–.

Phineas Stebbins (7), son of Phineas (6), m. Phebe Dunham. He d. Nov. 6, 1822. She d. ——. Their children were: —

Oliver (8), m. Rachel Dunham had William; Orin (8), m. —— Burleigh; Mezics Rayner (8), m. Julia Lyman, had Edmund and Lucina; Caroline (8), b. 1800, d. Oct. 1823; Isaac (8), d. Oct. 1823; Persis (8), m. Reuben Cadwell, (2) Ransom Sperry.

Walter Stebbins (7), son of Phineas (6) m. Azubah, dr. of John Carpenter, Oct. 6, 1801, m. (2), Esther W. King, May 1, 1837. He d. April 19, 1855. Azubah d. ——. Their children were: —

Clark Brown (8), b. Oct. 8, 1802, m. Margaret Tobey, Springfield: Olive Chapel (8), b. March 30, 1804, m. Rodolphus Chaffee; William Carpenter (8), b. Aug. 13, 1806, m. Eliza Perrin, March 3, 1829, had Frances Ann Eliza, b. June 5, 1830, he d. April 8, 1861; Anna Maria (8), b. Nov. 13, 1808, m. Alvin Day; Almira Waitstill (8), b. May 25, 1812, m. Horace Pease; Jackson Walter (8), b. Aug. 9, 1820, m. Fanny M. Burt, killed in 2d battle of Bull Run, Aug. 29, 1862; Stillman Needham, b. Aug. 19, 1822, killed by lightning, July 15, 1834.

Augustus Stebbins (7), son of Zadock (6). m. ——.

Chauncey Stebbins (7), son of Zadock (6), m. Nancy Chaffee, m. (2) Huldah Chaffee. Their children were: —

Chauncey; Nancy, ——.

David Stebbins (7), son of Moses (6), m. Mary Cone. He d. 1850. Their children were: —

Persis (8), b. Nov. 25, 1814; George (8), b. March 5, 1816, m. Orissa Kingsley, May, 1836; Emily (8), b. Nov. 18, 1817, m. R. Oscar Sessions, April 13, 1843; Jane (8), d. ——; Dudley (8); Alfred (8), m. Emeline Hendrick, May, 1847; Lafayette (8); Jane (8), b. Aug., 1827; Mary (8), b. April, 1829.

Moses Stebbins (7), son of Moses (6), m. Ruth Thwing. Their children were: —

Horace (8); Hannah (8); Semantha: family removed to Ohio.

Moses Granger Stebbins (8), son of Noah Stebbins (7), m. Sophronia Hitchcock, Oct. 2, 1833. Their children were: —

Amelia Sophia (9), b. Oct. 13, 1834; George Henry (9), b. April 29, 1838, m. Harriet Bugbee, Feb., 1862; Benjamin Franklin (9), b. Jan. 12, 1840, d. June 24, 1842; Lucinda Victoria (9), Oct. 16, 1842; Benjamin Franklin (9). b. May 8, 1847, d. Sept. 9, 1850; Byron G. (9), b. Sept. 28, 1850.

Orson Stebbins (8), son of Luther (7), grandson of Noah (6), m. Nancy Barnes, Palmer, July 1, 1835. Their children were: —

Lucinda (9), b. Nov. 1836, d. Sept. 11, 1838; Henry (9), b. 1839.

Milton Stebbins (8), son of Luther (7), grandson of Noah (6), m. Angeline H. Wood, Fayetteville, Vt., March 6, 1845. Their children were: —

Jane (9), b. Aug. 2, 1846; Charles (9), b. Feb. 10, 1855.

Randolph Stebbins (8), son of Calvin Stebbins (7), m. Sophia P. Keyes, Longmeadow, Nov. 18 (?), 1840. Their children were: —

Frank Randolph (9), b. 1842, d. in Hospital at Newbern, N. C., 1863; Amelia Sophia (9), b. Feb. 1844, m. ——; Emma Celestina (9), b. March, 1847.

Luther Lester Stebbins (8), son of Luther (7), grandson of Eldad (6), m. Sophia, dr. of Luther Shaw, Oct. 15, 1829. Their children were:—

Luther (9) b. Sept. 13, 1831, m. ——; Lucian (9), b. Feb. 1, 1833; m. ——; Cyrus (9), b. Nov. 11, 1835; Jane Maria (9), b. Aug. 31, 1841, d. Feb. 4, 1844; Jane Maria (9), b. Dec. 3, 1843; Maria Jane (9), b. June 9. 1845; Rufus Phineas (9), b. Oct. 20, 1849, d. 1861 (?). Family removed to to Pittsfield, Pike Co., Illinois.

Rufus Phineas Stebbins (8), son of Luther (7), grandson of Eldad (6), m. Eliza C. Livermore, Cambridge, Sept. 11, 1837. Their child was:—

Nathaniel Livermore (9), b. Jan. 9, 1847.

There was an Aaron Stebbins resided on the farm north of Mr. Thomas Isham's, many years ago, whose connection with the other Stebbinses I am not able to trace. He removed to the Reserve in Ohio, long since. The children were Aaron, Joel, Dan, Enoch, Rebecca, Rhoda, Eunice, Mary, Lois.

There was an Enos Stebbins, who lived, before and during the period of the Revolution, near Dea. John B. Morris's, who was connected with the other Stebbinses thus:—

Rowland (1) had Thomas (2), who had Samuel (3), who had Samuel (4), who had Jonathan (5), who had,

Enos (6), b. July 26, 1740, m. Mary, dr. of Samuel (5), his own cousin. Their children were:—

Mary (7), b. April 21, 1763; Eleanor (7), b. May 16, 1764; Jonathan (7), b. Nov. 1, 1765; Beulah (7), b. Sept. 24, 1767; Cloe (7), b. May 7, 1769; Byram (7), b. 1771; Brainard (7), b. Feb. 25, 1773; Bliss (7), b. Jan. 20, 1775.

Stebbins (Caleb) Family.

This family is descended from ROWLAND, thus:—

Rowland's son, Thomas (2), had Thomas (3), who had Thomas (4), who had Caleb (5), who had Caleb (6), b. Jan. 8, 1742, who came to Wilbraham, and who m. Mehitable Chapin, (b. Sept. 4, 1746), Jan., 1765. He died March 28, 1787, aged 45. She died Feb. 28, 1808, aged 62. Their children were:—

Mindwell (1st), b. Feb. 7, 1766, d. March 22, 1766; Mindwell (2d), b. April 19, 1767; Frederick, b. April 4, 1768, d. April 1, 1854; Rufus, b. Jan. 2, 1770, d. July 3, 1801; Caleb, b. March 28, 1771, d. Feb. 9, 1777; Lois, b. Aug. 19, 1772; John, b. Sept. 3, 1773, d. Jan. 11, 1857; Elizabeth, b Jan. 22, 1775; Roxana, b. March 25, 1776; Caleb, b. Dec. 11, 1777; Josiah, b. Feb. 26, 1779; Luther, b. Oct. 27, 1780; Martha, b. Aug. 4, 1782, d. Jan. 3, 1783; Lucus, b. April 10, 1785, d. June 9, 1785.

Frederick Stebbins, for his 1st wife, m. Mary Parsons, of Enfield, Ct., who died Jan. 7, 1809, aged 39, and by whom he had five children:—

Polly; Ralph, who d. Dec., 1852, aged 55 years; Persis; John, who d. May 16, 1805, aged 4 years; Harry, who d. Feb. 12, 1804, aged 8 months.

Frederick Stebbins, b. April 4, 1768, d. April 1, 1854, aged 86 years. Sylvia Edson, his 2d wife, dr. of Benjamin Edson, of Wilbraham, was b. May 20, 1789, m. July 1, 1810, d. June 21, 1862, aged 73. Their children were:—

Minerva, b. Jan. 31, 1811, still living; Jason, b. Sept. 27, 1812, still living; Harry, b. Feb. 9, 1815, d. same year; Jerry, b. March 22, 1816, d. 1817: Jane, b. Feb. 12, 1818, d. April, 1848; Charlotte, b. July 1, 1820, d. March, 1845; Sarah Ann, b. Nov. 16, 1822, still living; George H., b. May 11, 1825, still living.

Jason Stebbins m. Elvira Colton, dr. of David Colton, of Monson, Mass., Nov. 9, 1837. Their children were:—

Henry J., b. Sept. 8, 1838; Harriet E., b. Oct. 13, 1840, d. June 5, 1842; Ellen J., b. June, 1843; Stillman C., b. May 27, 1845; Arthur L., b. Feb. 15, 1849; John G., b. Feb. 23, 1851.

George H. Stebbins m. Cynthia A. Billings, Jenecksville, April, 1850. Their children were: Frederick L., b. Feb. 3, 1852; Frank E., b. Feb. 10, 1854; Fannie A., b. Sept. 3, 1858.

WARNER FAMILY.

DANIEL WARNER m. Jerusha Hitchcock, and settled in Wilbraham about the year 1732 or 3, — the third family that came into town. Their children were: —

Comfort, b. March 15, 1734, the first child b. in this town, d. July 14, 1757; Daniel, b. Dec. 26, 1735, d. July 22, 1748; Jesse, b. Oct. 15, 1738; Jerusha, b. Aug. 17, 1741, d. Nov. 1, 1749; David, b. April 11, 1746, d. April 12, 1746; Daniel, b. July 22, 1748. Daniel, the father, d. July 23, 1774, aged 66. Jerusha, the mother, d. Dec. 2, 1797, aged 88.

Jesse, son of Daniel and Jerusha Warner, m. Hannah ———. Their children were: —

Jesse, b. Sept. 11, 1762, d. Sept. 18, 1764; Jerusha, b. Jan. 15, 1765; Jesse, b. Sept. 15, 1765; Daniel, b. July 14, 1767, drowned in Chicopee River Feb. 20, 1807; Clarissa, b. June 5, 1769, d. ———; Ichabod, b. Aug. 22, 1771; David, b. Nov. 26, 1773, d. June 6, 1775; David, b. Aug. 22, 1775; Noah, b. June 29, 1777, d. Oct. 8, 1778; Clarissa, b. Jan. 10, 1780; Noah, b. Aug. 8, 1783.

Jesse, son of Jesse and Hannah Warner, m. Mary ———. Their children were: —

Polly, b. May 17, 1787, d. Oct. 21, 1799; Nathan, b. Sept. 22, 1789; David, b. ———; Clarissa, b. March 7, 1794; Thomas, b. July 18, 1796; Jesse, b. Nov. 25, 1798; Pynchon, b. April 8, 1801; John, b. ———.

David, son of Jesse and Hannah Warner, m. Sarah Lyon. Their children were: —

Daniel, b. Aug. 7, 1792; Wm. Colton, b. April 21, 1801; Philip Lyon, b. Dec. 11. 1803.

Samuel Warner (surnamed "Clark"), m. Mary Gilling July 17, 1735 (?). Their children were: —

Samuel, b. 1733 (?); Hannah, b. July 8, 1735, d. May 26, 1751; Mary, b. August 16, 1737; Rhoda, b. Oct. 6, 1739; Elisabeth, b. October 7, 1741; Nathaniel E., b. Jan. 24, 1744; Phanuel, b. June 19, 1745, d. June 9, 1776, in the Army; Asenath, b. March, 8, 1749.

Mary, the mother died June 6, 1754. The father m. Hannah ———. Their children were: —

Hannah, b. July 20, 1761; James, b. Nov. 11, 1763; Azriel, b. August 28, 1766; Sally, b. July 18, 1770.

Samuel, Jr., son of Samuel and Mary Warner, m. Ann ———. Their children were: —

Ann, b. Nov. 17, 1758; Seth, b. Dec. 2, 1760; Louisa, b. May 26, 1762; Samuel, b. Nov. 27, 1763. The father died Dec. 14, 1823, aged 90 years.

Azriel, son of Samuel and Hannah Warner, m. Betsey Shaw, Nov. 7, 1793. Their children were: —

Polly Shaw, b. August 17, 1794; Laura Belden, b. Sept. 13, 1796; Azriel Corban, b. April 28, 1799; William Bowman, b. February 15, 1805.

James, son of Samuel and Hannah Warner, m. Olive Kilbon, January 8, 1792. Their children were: —

Lucinda, b. April, 1792; Caroline, b. June 11, 1795; James Franklin, b. Jan. 15, 1802.

Samuel Warner, Jr., son of Samuel Warner, Jr., b. November 27, 1763, m. 1792, d. September 30, 1824; Eunice Jones, his wife, b. Nov. 24, 1771; d. April 14, 1859. Their children were: —

Abigail, b. Feb. 9, 1793, m. Orrin Webster; Vashni, b. Nov. 10, 1794, m. Nov. 10, 1817, Mertia Alden, d. Sept. 6, 1834; Polly, b. January 29, 1797, d. Oct. 21, 1799; Eunice, b. April 13, 1799, d. Oct. 29, 1800; Samuel, b. May 14, 1801, m. Oct. 25, 1827, Emeline Cooley, d. Oct. 28, 1859; Mary, July 14, 1803, m. April 4, 1827, Horace Clark, d. April 9, 1828; Levi, b. Feb. 17, 1806, m. March 26, 1833, Lorinda Alden; Hiram, b. March 17, 1808, d. Aug. 31, 1826; Lucinda, b. April 14, 1811, m., Jan. 1, 1837, Julius Parker; Edmund, b. August 3, 1813, m. Elizabeth Woodruff, d. 1851.

Vashni Warner, son of Samuel and Eunice Warner, m. Mertia Alden, Nov. 10, 1817. Their children were: —

Sarah, b. Aug. 25, 1818, m. December, 1843, Amos H. Putnam; Lyman, b. February 12, 1820; Eunice, b. Aug 6, 1821, m. Nov. 21, 1855, Reuben Jones; Alden, b. April 14, 1823, m. April 14, 1846, Catherine Dimmick; Phidelia, b. February 8, 1825, d. April 10, 1845; Hiram, b. January 28, 1827, m. Jan. 16, 1850, Clarinda Eaton; Vashni, b. Oct. 12, 1828, m. April 15, 1859, Julia E. Converse; James, b. Aug. 25, 1830, m. April, 1856, Almira Miller; Ellen, b. June 15, 1832, m. June 15. 1855, George Foster, d. April 28, 1859.

Samuel Warner, Jr., son of Samuel and Eunice Warner, m. Emeline Cooley, October 25, 1827. Their children were: —

Francis J., b. Oct. 26, 1829, m. April 21, 1853, Laura A. Dimmick; Mary L., b. June 30, 1831, m. Jan. 1, 1857, William H. Lyman; Edmund W., b. June 5, 1836, d. March 15, 1837; Emma A., b. July 1, 1839, d. Oct. 2, 1843; Clarissa O., b. Dec. 14, 1841, d. October 27, 1843; Dwight W., b. Nov. 4, 1851, d. February 24, 1852.

Levi Warner, son of Samuel and Eunice Warner, m. Lorinda Alden, March 26, 1833. Their children were: —

Lucinda B., b. June 5, 1835, d. Jan. 13, 1839; Lorinda A., b. March 22, 1837, d. Jan. 25, 1839; Edmund W., b. June 28, 1838, d. August 14, 1863, soon after discharge from service as a Mass. volunteer; George A., b. July 13, 1840; Levi J., b. Dec. 31, 1842, d. August 8, 1862, in U. S. service at Beaufort, S. C.; Simeon B. July 4, 1844.

Alden Warner, son of Vashni Warner and Mertia his wife, m. Catherine Dimmick, April 14, 1846. Their children were: —

Fidelia C., b. November 26, 1847; Ella A., b. September, 1850, d. April 17, 1857; Emma L., b. July 23, 1856; Frank A., b. Nov. 29, 1860; Silas D., b. Dec. 8, 1862.

Hiram Warner, son of Vashni and Mertia Warner, m. Clariuda Eaton, January 16, 1850. Their children were: —

Jane O., b. October, 1850; Frederick B., b. February, 1856; H. Leroy, b. May, 1859; Lizzie, b. July 3, 1863.

Francis J. Warner, son of Samuel Warner and Eunice his wife, m. Laura A. Dimmick, April 21, 1853. Their children were: —

Charles F., b. July 17, 1856; L. Roselle, b. June 29, 1859; Clara E., b. October 20, 1861.

WARRINER FAMILIES.

Benjamin Warriner, b. 1698, m. Mercy ———. Their children were: —

Benjamin, b. ——— ——; Eunice, b. April 3, 1739; Jacob and Israel, twins, b. May 19, 1742; Isaac, b. August 28, 1745. Benjamin, the father, d. ———; Mercy, the mother, died ———.

Benjamin Warriner, son of Benjamin and Mercy, m. Persis — . Their children were: —

Persis, b. Jan. 5, 1750; Benjamin, b. March 3, 1751; Willard, b. Feb. 17, 1753; Esther, b. Feb. 19, 1755; Lydia, b. Nov. 5, 1757; Bathsheba, b. Feb. 10, 1760; Gad, b. Jan. 29, 1762; Elijah, b. Jan. 25, 1764; Mercy, b. March 16, 1766; Zadock, b. Feb. 29, 1768; Phebe, b. April, 13, 1770; Jeremiah, b. August 22, 1772. Benjamin, the father, d. ———; Persis, the mother, died ———.

Isaac, son of Benjamin and Mercy Warriner, m. Lydia Torrey. Their children were: —

Jacob, b. April 18, 1768; Sarah, b. Aug. 13, 1769; Sally, b. July 10, 1771.

Willard Warriner, son of Benjamin and Persis, m. Lois Stebbins. Their children were: Bathsheba, b. April 27, 1780; Lucinda, b. July 30, 1782.

Gad, son of Benjamin and Persis Warriner, m. Lucy ———. Their children were: —

Chester, b. Jan. 1, 1784; Willis, b. July 16, 1785.

Zadock, son of Benjamin and Persis Warriner, m. Mary ———, Their children were: —

Wheeler, b. Dec. 18, 1789; Polly, b. June 21, 1792, d. ———; Polly, b. Feb. 12, 1795.

Reuben Warriner m. Sarah ———. Their children were: —

Reuben, b. Nov. 7, 1756; Sarah, b. Dec. 2, 1757, d. Jan. 17, 1758.

David Warriner m. Mary ———. Their children were: —

Mary, b. March 23, 1740, d. Oct. 15, 1753; David, b. May 13, 1742; Charles, b. April 15, 1744; Margaret, b. Aug. 12, 1746, d. July 8, 1824, aged 80; Jonathan, b. Sept. 16, 1749, d. April 15, 1819. David, the father, d. ———; Mary, the mother, d. ———.

David Warriner, son of David and Mary, m. Joanna Moody. Their children were: —

Mary, b. June 17, 1772, d. young; Joanna, b. March 14, 1774, d. April 19, 1776; Jerusha, b. Nov. 17, 1775, d. young; David, b. Jan. 3, 1778; Joanna, b, Dec. 5, 1779, m. John Rice, Dec. 23, 1802; Charles, b. Oct. 7, 1782; Jerusha, b. March 15, 1785, m. William

Rice, Sept. 17, 1809. David, the father, d. March 26, 1827. Joanna, the mother d. March 16, 1820.

David, son of David and Joanna, m. Fanny M'Cray. Their children were:—

Caroline, b. ———, m. Joel M. Lyman, July 1, 1824; Charlotte W. b. Aug. 23, 1816, m. Alvah S. Davis, Dec. 4, 1847; Emeline, b. July 26, 1818, m. Lyman Wood, Sept. 10, 1836, d. May 31, 1860; John M., b. Oct. 28, 1820; Mary J., b. Nov. 19, 1823, m. Samuel Dall, Nov. 14, 1845, d. Jan. 20, 1857; David M'Cray, b. Oct. 28, 1828, d. Aug., 1851. David, the father, d. March 26, 1827; Fanny, the mother, d. Nov. 9, 1827.

Charles, son of David and Joanna Warriner, m. Priscilla Paddock, June 27, 1834. Their children were:—

Charles M., b. Oct. 23, 1834; George P., b. Aug. 10, 1836. Charles, the father, d. June 3, 1852.

John M., son of David and Fanny Warriner, m. Orpha A. Moses, Nov. 7, 1844. Their children were:—

Fanny, b. May, 1849; Emma, b. April, 1852.

Charles M., son of Charles and Priscilla Warriner, m. Elizabeth C. S. Hale, June 15, 1854. Their children were:—

Charles H., b. April 20, 1855; Ella B., b. June 6, 1858.

George P., son of Charles and Priscilla Warriner, m. Emma J. Green, Nov. 4, 1857. Their child was:—

George H., b. April 16, 1859.

Moses Warriner m. Anna ———. Their children were:—

Moses, b. 1742; Samuel, b. Aug. 30, 1744; Anna, Aug. 10, 1746, d. Sept. 7, 1748; Noah, b. Oct. 27, 1748; Nathaniel, b. Oct. 18, 1750; Anna and Abner, twins, b. Dec. 1, 1752; Daniel, b. Jan. 16, 1756; Miriam, b. April 1, 1758. Anna, the mother, d. Aug. 22, 1795, aged 80. Moses, the father, d. ———.

Moses Warriner, Jr., son of Moses and Anna Warriner, m. Mary Warner. Their children were:—

Mary, b. Sept. 24, 1764; Susannah, b. Sept. 18, 1766, m. Isaac Lewis, March 28, 1787; Lydia, b. March 22, 1769, m. Noah Dean, Jan. 30, 1800; Moses, b. May 24, 1771; Elidiah, b. June 15, 1773; Elisabeth, b. July 4, 1775, m. Jonathan Kilbon, April 28, 1796; Flavia, b. Feb. 18, 1782, m. Thomas Glover, Feb. 10, 1803. Moses, the father, d. Oct. 4, 1809; Mary, the mother, d. ———.

Lieut. Noah Warriner, son of Moses and Anna, m. 1st wife, Grace Gregory, 2d wife, Mary Ainsworth. Their children were:—

Anna Gregory, b. May 4, 1778; Grace, b. Nov. 7, 1781. Grace, the mother, d. ———. Polly, b. July 27, 1783, drowned in Nine-mile Pond, April 29, 1769; Linda, b. July 23, 1785; Margaret, b. Aug. 1, 1787; Sophronia, b. July 11, 1790; Dolly, b. July 6, 1793. Noah, the father, d. Jan. 31, 1797, aged 48. Mary, the mother, d. ———.

Nathaniel, son of Moses and Anna Warriner, m. Diadema Hancock. Their children were: Nathaniel, b. June 7, 1776; Diadema, b. July 17, 1777; Sarah, b. Feb. 16, 1788; Cynthia, b. July 9, 1791; Daniel, b. April 6, 1779; Nancy, b. April 11, 1781; Ethna and Luther, twins, b. March 21, 1784. Nathaniel, the father, d. ———. Diadema, the mother, d. ———.

Abner Warriner, son of Moses and Anna Warriner, m. Elizabeth Wright. Their children were:—

Abner, b. Aug. 30, 1779; Walter, b. April 30, 1781; Ira, b. April 4, 1783; Warren, b. Jan. 10, 1785; Julia, b. Dec. 17, 1788; Phebe, b. Dec. 27, 1789; Alfred, b. May 30, 1791; Theodore, b. March 20, 1793; Samuel, b. April 22, 1795; Elizabeth, b. May 20, 1797; Noah, b. May 14, 1799. Abner, the father, d. ———. Elizabeth, the mother, d. ———.

Warren, son of Abner, and Elizabeth Warriner, m. Catharine ———. Their children were:—

Lorenzo, b. June 11, 1807; Roxanna, b. Nov. 6, 1809; Alford, b. June 10, 1801; Wm. F b. Sept. 19, 1813.

Capt. James Warriner, who lead the Lexington men, m. Miriam ——. Their children were:—

James, b. 1745; Solomon, b. Aug. 16, 1753; Miriam, b. Jan. 22, 1756; Stephen, b. June 8, 1760; Thomas, b. ——, d. May 21, 1821; Ethan, b. July 8, 1763, d. March 28, 1815; Anna Charity, b. Jan. 25, 1768, d. May 25, 1792, aged 25.

Solomon, son of James and Miriam Warriner, m. Mary Moore. The children were:—

Solomon, b. March 24, 1778; Polly, b. Jan 29, 1780, m. Samuel Holman, Nov. 27, 1800; Sophia, b. May 11, 1782, d. Dec. 20, 1807, aged 25; Jeremy, b. June 10, 1785; Ralph, b. July 1, 1787, d. 1816; Nabby, b. Oct. 19, 1790, m. Otis Colton, Oct. 26, 1814; Lorenzo, b. Aug. 30, 1792, d. July 10, 1814, aged 22. Mary, the mother, died ——.

The father m., for his 2d wife Betsey Jones, March 1, 1795. Their children were:—

Betsey, b. June 19, 1795, m. Pynchon Bliss, May 15, 1816; James, b. Aug. 5, 1797; Eunice, b. Dec. 10, 1800; Lyman, b. Jan. 20, 1802; Wells, b. June 11, 1807. Solomon, the father, d. March 12, 1816, aged 63. Betsey, the mother, d. ——.

Stephen, son of Capt. James and Miriam Warriner, m. Elizabeth Ely and settled in Monson.

Solomon, son of Solomon and Mary Warriner, m. Eleanor Keep, March 4, 1801. Their children were:—

Solomon, b. Feb. 10, 1802, d. Oct. 21, 1860; Francis, b. Nov. 20, 1804; William Pitt, b. Oct. 29, 1806, d. May 25, 1863; Sophia Eleanor, b. June 14, 1808, d. April 26, 1848; Henry, b. May 5, 1810, d. May 25, 1838. Eleanor, the mother died, and the father m., for second wife, Mary Bliss, July 4, 1811. Their children were:—

Lewis, b. May 12, 1812; Mary Bliss, b. Feb. 11, 1814; Elisabeth Bliss, b. Feb. 4, 1816.

Jeremy, son of Solomon and Mary Warriner, m. Phebe Bates, Dec. 9, 1810. No children were born to them.

Solomon, son of Solomon and Eleanor Warriner, m. Sarah B. Olmstead, Jan. 21, 1836.

Francis, son of Solomon and Eleanor Warriner, m. Sarah A. Hamilton, Nov. 24, 1842.

Wm. Pitt, son of Solomon and Eleanor Warriner, m. Elizabeth E. Fessenden, 1842.

Sophia Eleanor, daughter of Solomon and Eleanor Warriner, married Charles Merriam August 11, 1835.

Henry, son of Solomon and Eleanor Warriner, m Elisabeth A. French, 1837.

Lewis, son of Solomon and Mary Warriner, m. Elisabeth L. Whittlesey, Nov. 9, 1836.

Mary Bliss, daughter of Solomon and Mary Warriner, m. Henry Morris May 16, 1837.

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ERRATA.

I beg the indulgent reader to pardon and correct the following errors: —

Page 71, 6th line from the top, for "Capt.," read *Lieut.*

Page 71, 18th line from the top, for "Lothrop Chaffee resides," read *William P. Chaffee lately resided.*

Page 156, 15th line from the top, for "1826," read 1825.

Page 175, 14th line from the top, for "Samuel L.," read *Samuel M.*

Page 177, 5th line from the top, for "Samuel L.," read *Samuel M.*

Page 178, 9th line from the top, for "Horace," read *Robert O.*

Page 249, 17th line from the top, for "Givesey," read *Livesey.*

Page 255, 10th line from the top, for "Inkermann," read *Balaklava.*

Page 271, bottom, for "Edwin" read *Edward.*

Page 278, 15th line from the top, for "Budy," read *Bridgman.*

In the notice of "Slavery in Wilbraham," page 267, I said I knew nothing of Cæsar's end. I have since learned that he lived, till his death, in the Merrick family; was well cared for, nursed, and religiously instructed; died in the Christian faith, and was buried in the burying-ground.

I learn, as another item, that since the incorporation of the town, June, 1763, to June, 1863, one century, there have been: — Births, 3,940; deaths, 1,605; marriages, 941; and marriages of parties solemnized in other towns, 32. These, added to Warner's record, page 282, make the number of births, from the settlement, 1731, to 1863, 4,306; deaths, 1,670.

PRESS OF GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, BOSTON.